PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 14, No. 1 January/February 1992

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Champlost Homes Raised Beds

Jeff Myers

Greening has always been a priority at **Champlost Homes**, a Public Housing Development located in West Oak Lane. So when the **Youth Council** there decided this spring to create a garden on the traffic island at **20th & Kimball**, community leaders at Champlost Homes helped out. They wrote a proposal, which they submitted to **Youth Are Resources**, part of the **Metropolitan Boys & Girls Club**.

The grant was approved, and construction began this summer.

Audrey Williams, Resident Manager Trainee, appealed to PHILADELPHIA GREEN for help, and **Deborah Hall** & **Jeff Myers** of PG agreed to assist. About 20 kids from the neighborhood around Champlost Homes, ranging in age from 8-17, designed, constructed and filled three raised beds, with help from **Janet Carter, Winfred Young, Melinda Johnson** and **Ignatius Weekes**.

Because of the summer heat, planting was reserved for Fall. PG staff took **Joyce Richardson** and **Erica Simmons** to Waterloo Gardens in Exton to choose the plants. They chose variegated grasses, oakleaf hydrangeas, mugo pines, junipers, ornamental kale and assorted perennials. Fifteen kids were waiting anxiously to plant the minute the materials arrived.

As an end-of-the-project celebration, the youth were recognized in November with awards and treated to an outing to the Nifty Fifty's in the Northeast.

Meeting with the Mad Hatter and friends at Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens Field Trips

Eugene Reeves

Over 100 children from around the city took field trips to **Longwood Gardens** this Fall to attend the Chrysanthemum Festival. Five groups from **Norris Square, Point Breeze, Susquehanna, West Hagert**, and **West Philadelphia** took busses with **PHILADELPHIA GREEN** staff to view the beautiful gardens and topiary displays, and to see magic shows and the play "Alice in Wonderland."

Thanks go to chaperones **Dr.** and **Mrs. Ansar Ahmad, Rachel Bagby, Iris Brown, Helen Clowney, Wanda Dugan, Bettie McGill, and Gloria Trower.**

Special thank-you's to **Bill Thomas** of Longwood Gardens, who provided passes and guides for the children, many of whom had never been out of the city, and most of whom had never had an experience like this.

More field trips are planned for the new year.

Clippings

Community News

Good Samaritan **Randy Dalton** came to the rescue at the Tree & Bulb Sale. This City Gardens award winner was passing by 325 Walnut Street when he recognized **Flossie Narducci** and stopped to talk. Without being asked, he pitched in, moved heavy boxes of bulbs and really helped out.

The Fall Greene Countrie Towne leaders meeting had a fine turnout including 9 people from **Strawberry Mansion**, the next Greene Countrie Towne. Staffer **Jeff Myers** reported that he is organizing a Garden Manual of basic information. Assisting him are **Sharon Turner** of Susquehanna, **Gloria Trower** of Point Breeze and **Gertrude Regan** of Strawberry Mansion.

Lily Yeh, director of the **Village of Arts & Humanities**, produced and collaborated on a musical drama called "It Pulls It Apart". She conducted interviews with residents of the 10th & Germantown neighborhood and recorded their stories of tragedy and survival.

Cruz Molina and **Rafael Munoz** represented the **Norris Square Park Patrol** which was a National Winner in the **1990 Take Pride in America** competition. The two were honored in a ceremony in Washington. President Bush singled out Munoz and the patrol by saying about the park, "What was once a haven for crime and drugs has become a place where preschoolers can play."

Following in their footsteps, the **Raices Garden** in **Norris Square** won first prize in the **1991 Take Pride in Philadelphia** Contest. They were honored last month in Harrisburg and will go on to the Nationals.

A group of hard-working volunteers participated in the Fall Clean-up at the **Eastern State Penitentiary Ribbon of Gold.** They included **Melba Axelrod, Don Cleaver, Miriam Galstar, Dennis Green, Lee Gutman, Patsy McLaughlin, Dorene Martin, John Myers** and his kids, **Jesse** and **Becka, Connie Rice** and **Elizabeth Van Ummersen.**

Acia Gay, Vice President of the West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne and **Hayward Ford, President of Aspen Farms** bumped into each other for the first time in 33 1/2 years. The former high school classmates (Class of 1958) met up at the Pennjerdel Council's awards lunch honoring **Jane Pepper.**

Staff Stuff

Linda Davis, John Gannon, Ellen Gittleman, Carol Lindemann, Eve Miller, Ronni Whiten and **Anne Vallery** are enjoying **Green Scene editor, Jean Byrne's** "Write On" course. **Jean** shows her students how to silence "the critic" and let the words flow.

Flower Show Ticket Information

March 8 - 15, 1992
Sundays 10AM - 6PM
Mon-Sat 10AM - 9:30PM

Advance Sale	Adults	$ 9.75
	Children under 12	$ 5.25
General Admission	Adults	$10.50
	Children under 12	$ 5.25

Advance sale tickets may be purchased at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society until February 14, 1992, in groups of 10 or more. For more information, call 625-8253.

Winter Checklist

Winter has finally arrived and outdoor activities can seem to be limited to adding more birdseed to the feeder for our feathered friends. But just when you thought it was safe to take a break for the winter, somebody sends you a checklist of things that need to be done in the garden.

OUTDOORS

- For those who had **live xmas trees**, recycle them in the garden. Chip, chop, clip or just stand them up as shelter for birds. Stuff pine cones with peanut butter or suet and hang them from the branches as winter food for birds.

- Now that trees are bare, it's easier to see exactly what's going on with the branches. **Prune** out any crossing limbs, broken branches or crotches that are too narrow.

- **Check wires on street trees** and remove if they're cutting into tree bark.

- **Water shrubs and trees during warm spells**. More plants are killed each year by drying winds than by actual cold temperatures.

- In case of heavy snow, **brush or shake snow off evergreens**, since it can break or permanently bend branches.

- **Strip remaining flowers and foliage from roses** and dispose of it away from the garden. Old leaves provide a perfect nesting place for diseases and fungus to spend the winter. Mound soil or mulch around the base of the plants. 12" should be enough to protect the graft point from freezing. Use soil from somewhere else in the garden to avoid disturbing the roots.

- Salt spread on roadways may be harmful to plantings near the street. **You may have to wash away salt from cherished plants.**

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19106 625-8280

OUTDOORS (Cont.)

- **Clean and lightly oil hand tools**, and store in a dry place.

- **Turn compost piles** to keep microbes active so leaf mold and compost will be ready for spring use.

- Take advantage of a warm day and **take a walk** in Fairmount Park.

INDOORS

- **Plan for next spring's garden**. Send for seed catalogs. Call Penn State's Garden Phone at 560-4167 for their list of seed company catalogs.

- **Start seeds indoors.**
  Feb 1-15 onions, leeks, cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, collards) celery
  Feb 15-28 all the annuals (including marigold, petunia, and zinnia) head lettuce, chives, chinese cabbage
  For how-to information, call Eve at 625-8280 and ask for our handout.

- **Pay special attention to houseplants** brought in from outdoors and keep an eye out for unwanted visitors, especially grubs in the soil. (Pick them out and dispose of them QUICKLY) Place plants in full sunlight if possible, and give each a quarter turn every few days to give them a balanced shape. Water frequently and mist plants often, since heating systems dry them out quickly.

Get the jump on Spring. **FREE WOODCHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!!!**
Philadelphia Electric has an abundance of chips, and they would like to see them used by gardeners. They will deliver chips directly to your site when crews are working in your area.
Call **Tom Polulak at 697-8778** for more information. Be ready to give him the exact address of the site, as well as a contact person's name and phone number.

PLEASE POST

On the Vine

A Gardeners' Gala

Join us for
Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Come to the Philadelphia Flower Show on **Sunday, March 15th.** Start your day with a sumptuous brunch...

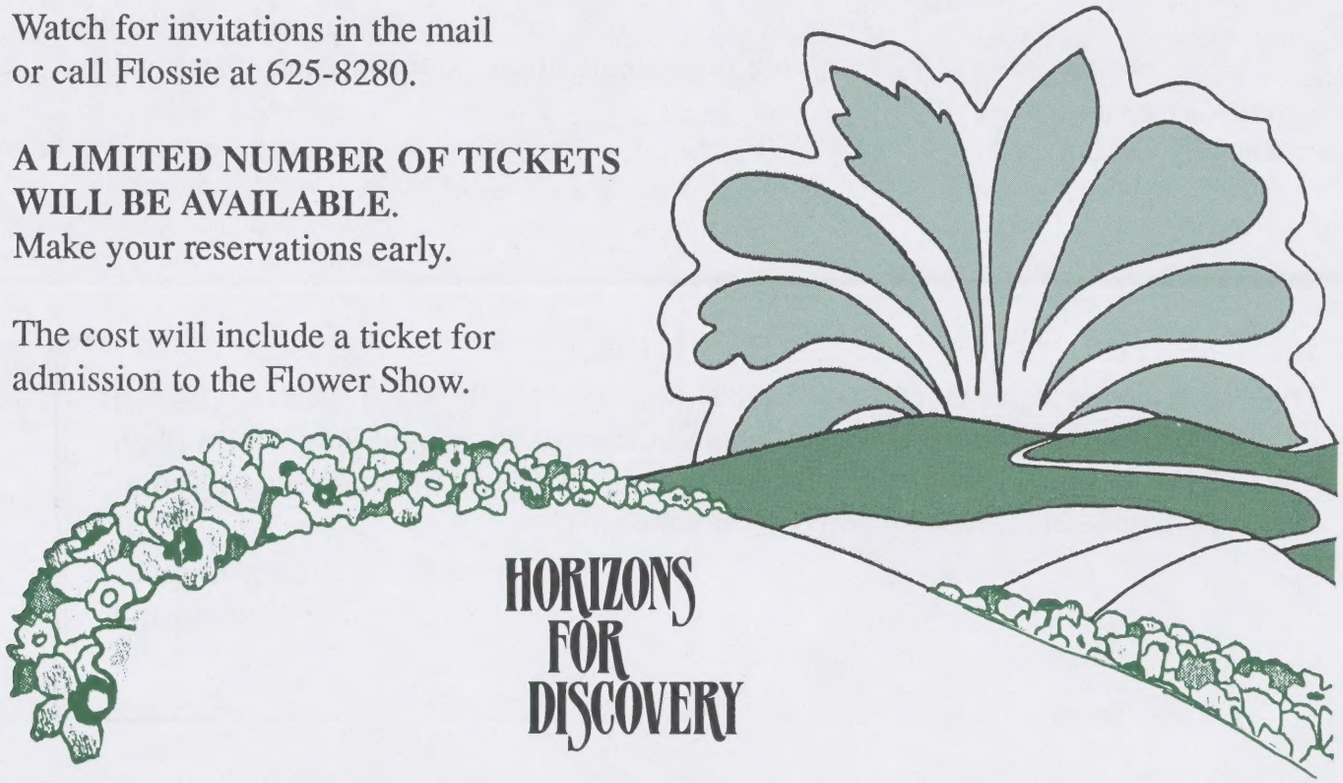
Then journey over the ***Horizons For Discovery*** to see blooming cactus gardens of the Southwest, witness the creations of eighteen of the nation's top flower designers, & delight in the discoveries of early plant explorers.

Bring your shopping bag for a visit to the **Flower Show Market Place** where there are more than 100 specialty shops. Here you can purchase pots or plants or a host of horticultural hoopla. Many vendors offer bargains on this final day of the sale.

Watch for invitations in the mail
or call Flossie at 625-8280.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
Make your reservations early.

The cost will include a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.



DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Golde Fitzpatrick and **Erma Lampkin** are old friends. Last spring, Golde asked Erma to join her in the care of the **Edgar DeShields Memorial Garden** that nestles behind **St. Simon's Church** at 22nd and Reed Streets in **Point Breeze**. Last fall, Golde and Erma were awarded **Second Prize** for a Mid-Size Community Flower Garden in the City Gardens Contest. These garden partners were thrilled with the judges' comments: "Absolutely tops; just lovely; well-groomed and peaceful."

Golde quietly glows looking back at her two year involvement with the garden. Originally started by Edgar DeShields, the garden became overgrown and weed-filled after Mr. DeShields' death several years ago. With the rector's permission, Golde's garden work started in 1990. She planted flowers on both sides of the path and groundcover under the shade of the Golden Rain tree. All through that first gardening season, Golde asked for help in restoring the garden. She finally thought to ask Erma.

Last spring, they planted marigolds and vinca vine among the shrubs in the two-tiered raised beds in the middle section of the garden. Golde and Erma planted clematis in front of five wooden trellises to beautify the cinder block wall behind the raised beds.

During the summer, if one or the other was busy, they would take turns, visiting the garden frequently. Erma admits that, "Though I never gardened in the city before, I like the work and afterwards it looks so pretty."

The gardeners sold cut marigolds throughout the summer. Golde and Erma dug up waxed begonias in the fall to pot and sell at the Church Fair. They bought bulbs and a long-handled bulb planter with the proceeds. Golde says, "It's a life-saver for the back and knees."

Golde is devoted to the restoration of the garden. Each year she has taken on another section. The garden entrance invites the visitor to discover its charm. The raised beds are filled with evergreen yews, flowering Rose of Sharon, and colorful annuals.

Golde has yet to tackle the rear of the garden. She envisions a brick terrace, with steps leading to it from the gravel walk below. "This coming year, I'd like to pull in more people to work in the garden. Maybe even someone who does brickwork." Golde is sure to draw people together for her cause. I can just hear the judges' comments next summer: "The new terrace garden is beautiful to behold. A cool place to be on a hot, summer afternoon."

Share your garden story. Call me at 625-8280. Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

Jan/Feb 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 14, No. 2 March 1992

Reach Out and Grow It!

The opportunity to "Grow It" exists for everyone who reaches out in their community and shares in PHS's **Philadelphia Green** and **Center City Green** programs. Working together in Philadelphia, community gardeners, businesses and volunteers have joined in making a difference in the life and look of the City through growing things.

This year's Philadelphia Green Flower Show exhibit highlights some of these projects. Shown in the display are "face lifts" of familiar public spaces: the **Azalea Garden** behind the Art Museum, planted, pruned and primped; **Eastern State Penitentiary's Ribbon of Gold** streaking across its facade; the **26th Street Gateway to the City** meadow planting, welcoming visitors on their trip from the Airport into Center City. And places Philadelphians call home: communities with street trees along the curbs, shading the sidewalks where children play and neighbors gather to talk; flower gardens tucked away on lots once filled with weeds and trash; vegetable gardens where bounty and knowledge are shared freely.

As a special part of the exhibit, PG and CCG volunteers will add a personal touch; at certain times during the Show, participants will give brief, informal presentations about their own experiences gardening in the city. Their talks will certainly make the exhibit come alive as they let Show visitors see how to initiate projects in their own communities.

Another high point to visit at the Flower Show is the **Lectures & Demonstrations Series**, held daily throughout the week at 11AM, 12:30, 2, 3:30, and 5 PM most days, with slightly different times on Sundays. All sessions will take place in the third floor Auditorium, located at the top of the escalators behind the Marketplace area. For a complete list, see inside this newsletter.

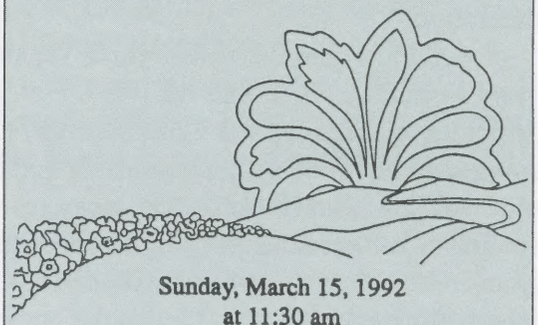
At the same time, **Camera Shop, Inc.** will offer hands-on guidance to camera buffs at this year's Flower Show. The demonstrations, conducted by experts from **Minolta** and **Kodak,** will take place next door to the Lectures & Demonstrations room.

*Philadelphia Green's exhibit is funded in part by **Meridian Bank** and **Fleming Companies, Inc**.*

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
cordially invites you to attend the

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Gardeners' Gala

Brunch at the
Philadelphia Flower Show

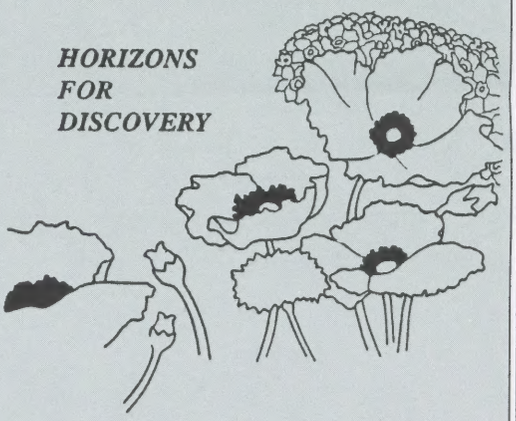


Sunday, March 15, 1992
at 11:30 am

$17 per person
includes Flower Show ticket

RSVP by February 29

HORIZONS FOR DISCOVERY



The Gala is supported by
***Provident National Bank**, a PNC Bank,*
Presenting Sponsor of the
1992 Philadelphia Flower Show

Clippings

Community News

The Advisory Board held orientation on Saturday, January 11th for new members **Gladys Blackwell, C. Charles Carmichael, George Davis, Carmen Delgado, Lenora Jackson-Evans, Acia Gay, Annie D. Hyman, Jim Norris, Linda Ross, Charles Thomson, Andrea Williams and Barbara Wolf.** Attendees saw the Philadelphia Green and Flower Show videos and learned the history of Philadelphia Green, its programs and its activities.

Congratulations to Advisory Board Chair **Rena Ennis** and her husband **David** who renewed their vows on their 50th wedding anniversary in January. Several Philadelphia Green staffers enjoyed the celebration.

Aspen Farm gardeners **Marjorie Washington, Hazel Felton** and **Rebecca Melvin** are creative Christmas decorators. For Christmas 1991, Marjorie arranged her own colorful ceramic village in her front window. Hazel used white spray paint on the remains of her garden's Burning Bush, strung fairy lights and covered the ground with cotton snow. Rebecca made a pine cone wreath for her front window. She used a number of star-shaped cotton pods from her garden plot for the finishing touch.

Special thanks to **Blanche Epps** for assisting with several Christmas workshops. She was needed during that hectic time when several dedicated staff people conducted 24 workshops in only 3 weeks.

In early December **Mamie Nichols** was honored by the **Point Breeze Federation** and her friends and supporters for her many years of community service. Former mayor **W. Wilson Goode**, council people, and local dignitaries attended.

The Center City Greening Project committee -- **Bob Davidson, Mary Bell Desborough, Gene Dichter, Patrick Eleey, Susan Hale, Cecily Kihn,** and **Frank Stefano** -- has been working hard to drum up support for street trees in their neighborhood for over a year. They have been so successful that the committee has added 20 new members.

REMINDER - Take advantage of Monday night hours at the **PHS Library**. It's open from 5 - 7 as a service to members. **Kathy Mills** will be available in the lobby to answer questions about plants - so drop by with any specimens that need help.

Staff Stuff

We're growing!. Three new employees have joined the PG staff. **Julia Sokol** is a part-time assistant to **Anne Vallery**. She will help Anne with the Flower Show, Junior Flower Show and JFS School Program. Assistant coordinator **Delcina Wigfall** will work with **Verlene Johnson** to prepare for the **Strawberry Mansion** dedication and **James Holahan** will assist **Debbie Hall** on **PHA** projects. Almost new employee (Nov '91), **Kalyan Bhagratty** has gotten acquainted with people and procedures over the winter. She is looking forward to working out in the field this spring.

Sally McCabe and **Janet Carter** traveled to San Francisco in February for the **American Community Gardening Association** Board Meetings. Besides attending meetings, they visited local community gardens and also behaved like regular tourists.

Eugene Reeves covered many miles during his Christmas vacation. He toured Callaway Gardens in Georgia which has a 7 1/2 acre vegetable garden. The highlight of his trip was a visit to Pearl Fryar in South Carolina. Pearl is a "topiary artist" who uses a gas-powered hedge trimmer to make spirals, hearts, and other fantastic shapes. Gene recorded these fascinating sights on a video which he can make available.

Branching Out

Trees Bring Hope *by Susan Phillips*

In the Fairhill section of the city, CUNAD (**Community United Neighbors Against Drugs**) is making a difference. President **Miriam Colon** and Youth Coordinator **Maggie Maldonado** organized a youth environmental group of elementary and middle school students to keep the area "clean". They have focused on vacant lots where drug dealers hang out.

On Arbor Day 1990, CUNAD participated in a drug vigil along with other community groups. Hundreds of high school students marched through the streets ending at **Potter Thomas Elementary School** where drugs were plentiful. As part of the day's activities, PG tree coordinator **Sue Phillips** planted trees at the school. This school is now drug-free.

The youth group cleared debris from many vacant lots. During the summer they planted 4 trees on a lot at **5th & Westmoreland** to beautify it. This fall, Sue arranged to plant 11 trees on two additional lots. The surfaces were so hard that the PG crew used a backhoe. Now students keep these areas in shape by watering trees, picking up trash, and planting bulbs. They have received a grant for flowers and shrubs to further improve the space. What were once eyesores have become green places for children to play.

Update on GW *by Mindy Maslin*

Last October this newsletter featured a greening group organized by teacher and community leader **Dennis Donahue** at **George Washington Elementary School.** The group spent a week in the summer working with the Tree Corps. As a result, Education Specialist **Mindy Maslin** selected George Washington School for a tree farm and planted 8 Franklinia trees there. In order to care for them, the surrounding **Jefferson Park** neighborhood has joined forces with the school. The young seedlings will spend the next few years at their temporary home and then will be moved into the surrounding neighborhood and **Sacks Recreation Center**. **Dennis Donahue** coordinated the tree farm with teacher **Marge Rubin**.

A Team Effort *by Susan Phillips*

Philadelphia Green participated in a community project in the **700 Block of Thompson Street** between 7th and Franklin. **Lucille Howard** of theNorth Philadelphia Health System (Girard Hospital) got permission to improve the land which covered one city block. She contacted **Mark Teller**, PG coordinator of the L & I Lotscape Program, for assistance. He enlisted the aid of Tree Coordinator, **Sue Phillips**. They worked together to fence the area and plant trees. The whole neighborhood pitched in to clean the lot and plant shrubs. They included staff and patients from **Girard Hospital**, **Louise Brookius** and other members of the **Welfare Rights Organization**, local residents, and gardeners from **Jardin Paraiso** at 7th & Jefferson. To top it off, Sue helped plant street trees on 5 adjoining blocks in the neighborhood.

Mindy Maslin** is the Tree Education Specialist and **Susan Phillips** is the Tree Coordinator. This program is funded by the **William Penn Foundation.

A volunteer at Sacks Recreation Center demonstrates proper pruning techniques

On the Vine

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 2** for the **PG Spring Sale** at the **Horticulture Center** in Fairmount Park. At this annual event you'll be able to purchase annuals, vegetables, perennials, herbs, trees and garden supplies at discount prices.

You can take advantage of these low prices **ONLY IF YOUR GROUP PRE-ORDERS.** There will be plants and garden supplies available on sale day, but these will be limited in quantity and not offered at the discount price.

Annuals and vegetables will be sold by the market pack. To insure a good price, we order from several different growers. Because of this, the number of plants in a market pack will vary (4-6 plants per market pack.)

Send your order form with check or money order (NO CASH!!!) payable to PHS to:

Spring Sale/Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

If you haven't yet received your order form, call Ronnie at 625-8280.

All orders must be picked up the day of the Sale. We cannot be responsible for those orders not picked up on time.

There will be additional annuals and vegetable transplants available for sale. However, to get the best price it is recommended that you pre-order.

A limited number of herbs, perennials, shrubs and trees will also be available on the day of the sale in the Cash & Carry area.

Seedy Information for March Gardeners

Most of us have packets or half-packets of seeds left over from last year. How can you tell if they're still any good? Here's a simple test:

Spread out about 20 seeds on a moist (not wet) paper towel, and roll it up into the shape of a tube. Place the tube in a plastic bag, and put the bag in a warm (not hot) place out of the sun. Unroll it after two weeks, and check how many have germinated. If less than 75%, or 14 seeds, have sprouted, your seed is too old and you probably should buy new ones.

Many of us with small gardens really don't have enough room to plant a whole pack of seeds. After all, how many tomato or pepper seedlings can you stuff into a 10'x10' space??

Here are a few suggestions for how to deal with what's left in the pack after the first spring planting.

- Trade half-full seed packs with other gardeners. Or plan ahead and agree before you buy them to split a particular envelope of seeds.
- Do succession planting. This means to plant a row of something like lettuce now, another in two weeks, another in two weeks, etc., so that you constantly have a new crop coming up while the last one is maturing. This will use up a pack of seeds over the course of the season.
- Save seeds from one year to the next. (See below.)

The best ways to save seeds from one year to the next:

- Keep leftover seeds in an airtight container. Tupperware and coffee cans with lids are ideal.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19106 625-8280

- **Moisture is a major waster of seeds.** Keep leftovers dry by putting an inch of dessicant in the bottom of your airtight container. (A dessicant is a material that draws moisture out of the air. A high tech example is silica gel, available from most florists and garden centers for drying flowers. Low tech, and cheaper, is powdered milk.)

- **The second leading killer of seeds is heat**. The best temperature for storing seeds is 35-40° F. Conveniently enough, that's the temperature inside your refrigerator. The worst place to keep seeds is in the trunk of your car, where sunny day temperatures can often reach 150° F.

- **Mice can also be a problem when storing seeds**. Remember that a mouse won't go after something it can't smell, so stick to the airtight containers.

- **Weevils are small beetle-like insects** with long noses that love to eat the insides out of seeds, especially the larger ones like corn, beans and sunflowers. If you're saving your own seeds, put them in the freezer overnight (no longer, or you'll kill the seeds) in their airtight storage container. The cold temperatures will kill the bugs and their eggs so you need fear no weevil.

WHAT TO PLANT IN MARCH

Early to late March:

carrots
beets
leeks
lettuce
onion sets
peas
potatoes
radishes
spinach
turnips

Put out transplants:

broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
celery
chives
collards
leeks
parsley

Cultivating Kids

We've got the right one, baby!

Rita O'Kedas and the kids at the North 7th Street Police Mini-Station are making their own soda! Aided by Gene Reeves, Youth Program Specialist at Philadelphia Green, the 12 children mixed up fruit flavoring, yeast, sugar and water and turned it into four gallons of **SPARKLING FRUIT SODA**. Here's their recipe so you can do the same.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- wine, champagne or beer yeast (available locally -- check the Yellow Pages under *beer & winemaking supplies*.)
- frozen apple or grape juice concentrate (12 oz size)
- up to 2 cups sugar
- 1 gallon water
- plastic soda bottles with twist tops (recycled - small up to 2 liter size)

WHAT TO DO:

- Mix 1/8 teaspoon yeast with 1/2 cup warm water. Let stand for 5 minutes or longer.
- Thaw juice concentrate.
- Mix together yeast mixture, half the sugar, juice concentrate, and enough warm water to make up one gallon of liquid. Slowly add more of the sugar to taste.
- Sterilize soda bottles by soaking them in a solution of chlorine bleach and water (a tablespoon of clorox per gallon of water.) Rinse bottles and let them sit until all smell of bleach is gone. (Leftover chlorine in bottles will kill the yeast and ruin the soda.)
- Fill sterilized bottles to within 1 inch of top. Seal by twisting tops on tightly.
- Lay bottles on side to check for leaks. Age 2-4 days at room temperature. Then store in cooler, dark place for at least one week; two weeks is even better if you can stand the wait. Soda will keep up to a year, and, like a fine wine, mellows with age.

Natural carbonation takes place as yeast digests the sugar and turns it into bubbles of carbon dioxide. This will cause pressure in the bottles. Refrigerate before opening, DO NOT SHAKE, and open them with the top pointing away from people's faces.

The finished soda will have a layer of sludge on the bottom of the bottle. This is not harmful, but it could taste unpleasant. Pour soda off carefully.

1992 FLOWER SHOW LECTURES & DEMONSTRATIONS

Lectures and demonstrations on a variety of horticultural subjects will be conducted during the week of the Show. All sessions will take place in the third floor Auditorium, located adjacent to the top of the escalators behind the Marketplace area. This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted daily on pillars throughout the Show floor.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

11:30 **DRIED ARRANGEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN FLAIR** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
1:00 **IKEBANA** Midori Tanimune, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
2:30 **ARRANGING UNUSUAL DRIED FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
4:00 **LANDSCAPING WITH ROSES** Judy McKeone, Chief Horticulturist/Rosarian, Morris Arboretum

MONDAY, MARCH 9

11:00 **WEDDING FLOWERS, ETC.** Kathlene Sullivan, Ridley Park Florist, Ridley Park, PA
& Matthew J. Falini, Parkside Florist, Parkside, PA
12:30 **IKEBANA** Phyllis Weeks, Ohara School of Ikebana
2:00 **GARDENING WITH BULBS** Suzanne Frutig Bales, W. Atlee Burpee & Co.
3:30 **WEDDING FLOWERS, ETC.** Cheryl Turkot, The Flower Cart, Erdenheim, PA
& Debbie Rice, Younger & Sons, Inc Wholesalers, Lansdale, PA
5:00 **A PEEK AT CITY GARDENS** Flossie Narducci, Philadelphia Green

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

11:00 **ARRANGING CUT FLOWERS** Penny's Flowers, Glenside, PA
12:30 **LAWN CARE** Jeff Ball, Garden Writer
2:00 **IKEBANA** Helen Flaig, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
3:30 **ARRANGING CUT FLOWERS** Penny's Flowers, Glenside, PA
5:00 **CARING FOR TREES** Mindy Maslin, Tree Education Specialist, Philadelphia Green

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

11:00 **WEDDING FLOWERS, ETC.** Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers and Formal Wear
12:30 **IKEBANA** Mariko Ono, Sogetsu School of Ikebana
2:00 **FLOWER ARRANGING AROUND THE WORLD**
Helen Skinner & Peg Spence, World Association of Flower Arrangers, Toronto, Canada
3:30 **WEDDING FLOWERS, ETC.** Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers and Formal Wear
5:00 **ARRANGEMENTS & SCULPTURE WITH FOUND ART** Bernice Makin
7:00 **A PEEK AT CITY GARDENS** Flossie Narducci, Philadelphia Green

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

11:00 **ARRANGING WITH DRIED FLOWERS** Helen Knauff & Rita Precopio (1 1/2 hours)
1:00 **THE MAKING OF THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW** Slide Show
2:00 **IKEBANA** Bernice Makin, Ohara School of Ikebana
3:30 **TOP 20 GROUNDCOVERS** Ken LeRoy, McFarland Landscaping
5:00 **FLOWER ARRANGING AROUND THE WORLD**
Helen Skinner & Peg Spence, World Association of Flower Arrangers, Toronto, Canada
7:00 **A PEEK AT CITY GARDENS** Flossie Narducci, Philadelphia Green

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

11:00 **COUNTRY & EUROPEAN STYLE CUT FLOWERS** Gooseberry Bush, Downingtown & Wayne, PA
12:30 **IKEBANA** Yuriko Moriuchi, Ikenobo School of Ikebana
2:00 **COUNTRY & EUROPEAN STYLE CUT FLOWERS** Gooseberry Bush, Downingtown & Wayne, PA
3:30 **HOUSEPLANT CARE & PROPAGATION** Linda Ciccantelli, Magee Rehabilitation Center
5:00 **COUNTRY & EUROPEAN STYLE CUT FLOWERS** Gooseberry Bush, Downingtown & Wayne, PA
7:00 **WATER GARDENING CLINIC—POOLS, PONDS & PLANTS** Don Schnoor, Lotus of America

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 **FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS** Reeanne Ramirez, Newtown Floral Company, Newtown, PA
12:30 **FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS** Reeanne Ramirez, Newtown Floral Company, Newtown, PA
2:00 **IKEBANA** Jane Morrison & Adelaide Swanson, Ichiyo School of Ikebana
3:30 **FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS** Reeanne Ramirez, Newtown Floral Company, Newtown, PA
5:00 **SHADE GARDENS** Ken Druse, author, The Natural Shade Garden

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

11:00 **VASE ARRANGEMENTS** Cheryl Turkot, The Flower Cart, Erdenheim, PA
12:30 **SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES OF THREE SCHOOLS OF IKEBANA**
Hiroko Nikata, Ikenobo; Ronell Douglass, Ohara; Shigeko Kawano & Lorraine Toji, Sogetsu
2:00 **VASE ARRANGEMENTS** Cheryl Turkot, The Flower Cart, Erdenheim, PA
3:30 **ROCK GARDENS** Patrick Valentine, Valentine Horticultural Services

What's Coming Up
March, April, May

March 8-15 **PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW**

9 **"A Peek at Philadelphia Gardens"** Slide show presentation by City Gardens Contest Coordinator Flossie Narducci and members of the Contest Committee gives an overview of past Contest Winners and their secrets. 5 PM at the Flower Show, Pennsylvania Hall 3rd Floor Auditorium. (Repeated Wed, March 11 at 7 PM and Thurs, March 12 at 7 PM).

10 **"Caring For Trees"** Mindy Maslin, Tree Education Specialist with Philadelphia Green. A soup-to-nuts slide presentation of everything from applying for permits, preparing your site, selecting a tree that will do well in the city, planting it, and caring for it into maturity. 5 PM at the Flower Show, Pennsylvania Hall 3rd Floor Auditorium.

15 **COMMUNITY GARDENERS' GALA** at the Flower Show
Watch the mail for your invitation.

23 **Small Fruit Workshop** -- Penn State Urban Gardening Program
10:30 AM, Norris Square Senior Citizen Center, 2121 N. Howard

April 4 **Wreathmaking** -- Penn State Urban Gardening Program
10:30 AM, Norris Square Senior Citizen Center, 2121 N. Howard

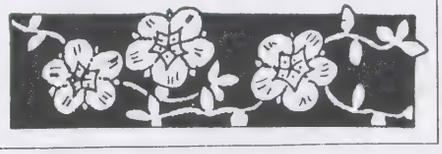
11 **Water Gardening & Planting for Preserving**
10 AM Penn State Urban Gardening Demo Garden -- 4601 Market St

May 3 **Taking Garden Pictures** -- Penn State Urban Gardening
10:30 AM NAC Office, 1511 N. Philip Street

20-21 **Junior Flower Show**
First Bank, 3rd Street between Chestnut & Walnut
Watch your April **PG News** for details.

29 to June 7
Philadelphia County Fair
Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park

June 10 **Last chance to register for the City Gardens Contest**



DIGGING IN THE DIRT

David Pierce hails from Camden, South Carolina, but he has made **Point Breeze Greene Countrie Towne** his home for the past 48 years.

These days Mr. Pierce can often be found in the garden at 22nd and Sears that he started with the help of PG staffers **Eileen Gallagher** and **Winfred Young**. Two years ago, the one-house site was a trash-strewn mess. Neighbors were pleased when Mr. Pierce became involved because of his reputation with flowers and gardens.

Mr. Pierce took flower arranging classes as a hobby while working in Sears' Mail Order Service. Now retired, he creates arrangements for weddings, banquets, and other social functions at his church, Tasker Street Baptist Church. In 1978, Mr. Pierce helped develop and ably maintains the church gardens at 20th and Fernon. That was his first involvement with Philadelphia Green.

Mr. Pierce is also known around the neighborhood for his volunteer garden services to senior citizens. Say someone wants to garden in her or his own backyard, but lacks the physical health to do all the preparation. They call in Mr. Pierce who cuts back all the overgrown trees, t[illegible] he roses, prepares the gr[illegible] plants tomatoes, peppers and a few flowers. The person takes over with the watering and weeding through the rest of the season. Mr. Pierce also cares for their indoor plants if needed, dividing plants, repotting or just generally cleaning things up.

The garden at 22nd and Sears shows the extent of Mr. Pierce's garden and design skills. Colors explode. Beds are neatly weeded and edged with unusual stones he has collected. A path leads from the gate and circles around a raised bed. "There was a lot of broken brick and stone once we cleaned up the lot, with no one to haul it away. So we piled up the debris and put soil on top. We thought that would take care of it and it did." Mr. Pierce used mostly white and blue flowers on the mound. He also added plants donated by people in the neighborhood.

Mr. Pierce, a vigorous senior at 73 years, is the picture of health. I found him in his garden last fall, tall and trim in his work overalls, cutting back the cannas that had flourished throughout the summer. He figured that there was no telling how the winter would affect them. "If we have a hard winter, it would kill them." So he dug them up, put them in boxes and stored them in a shed. Mr. Pierce has quite a number to share. If you want red cannas in your garden this year, call him at 462-5728 as soon as possible.

Share your garden story. Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

March 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 14, No. 3 April 1992

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Norris Square Builds "Little House"

by Eileen Gallagher

When you walk by the new vegetable gardens on the **2200 block of N. Palethorpe St.** in **Norris Square**, take special notice of the cute little house painted brightly in pastel pink, white and blue.

What is this quaint little house doing in the garden, and how is it going to be used? Well, you'd be right in calling it a "little house" or "casita." The brainchild of **Iris Brown**, a teacher at **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**, the casita is really a replica of the housing that existed in Puerto Rico before World War II. It's also a teaching tool that emphasizes traditional ways of living before electricity and running water were common.

The casita was built by the **Alvarez family**, with help from Norris Square and Philadelphia Green staff. If it had been built in pre-WWII Puerto Rico, it would have been made with yagua leaves (a type of palm), banana leaves, bamboo, ropes and vines, instead of the wood, nails, concrete and cinder blocks available today. The floor would be the warm ground, and the Bohios Indians (who lived in Puerto Rico before the Spanish invaded) would be the building contractors.

With the arrival of the Spanish, new materials and technology entered the scene. Floors and walls were constructed of wood. Grown children built their casitas near their parents, and communities developed, where meals, work and child-rearing were shared.

Besides creating an air of festivity, the bright colors of the houses identified the different families, since there were no addresses. The Garcia's house, for example, might be the one with the bright blue porch, pink shutters and white trim.

After WWII the old type of casita started to disap-

(continued next page)

The **casita** *is a replica of the housing that existed in Puerto Rico before World War II, and emphasizes traditional ways of living before electricity and running water were common.*

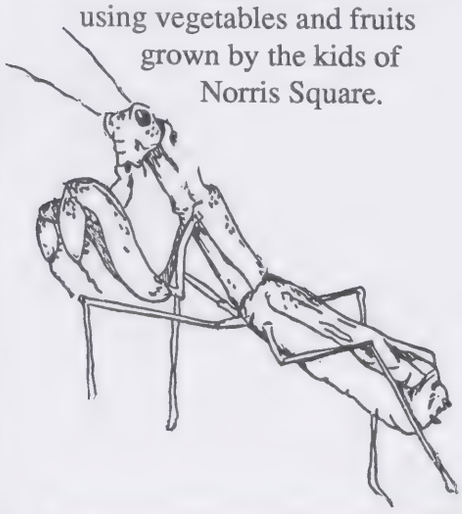
Little House

continued from first page

pear. Newer building materials became available — cinder block, concrete tile. Houses got larger and were built on foundations. Grown children found employment in other parts of the city or set off for other areas. But the traditional ways of living were still held close to the hearts and minds.

Recently there was an exhibit at the Bronx Museum of the Arts titled **"Las Casitas: an Urban Cultural Alternative."** Casitas have been showing up on many empty lots as social clubs, and have attracted academic interest. Folklorists have documented 40 such structures in New York City's Hispanic neighborhoods. Now we have one here in Norris Square to keep the past as part of the present, preserving the culture.

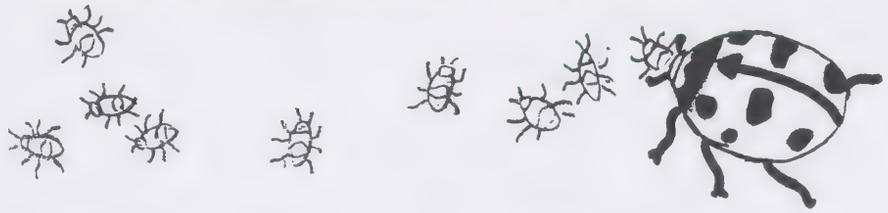
Plans for the new casita include interior furnishings— hand-made curtains, benches, a table. The seniors from Norris Square will participate in the educational process with storytelling and traditional folksongs. There will be outdoor cooking demonstrations using vegetables and fruits grown by the kids of Norris Square.



Cool Season Crops to Plant in April

FROM SEED (outdoors)	FROM TRANSPLANTS (outdoors)
beets	broccoli
carrots	cabbage
corn	cauliflower
dill	collards
gladiolus	clematis
kale	daylilies
lettuce	fruit trees
mustard	hardy herbs
onions	leeks
parsnips	lettuce
peas	mint
potatoes	pansies
radishes	raspberries
spinach	roses
turnips	strawberries

New at the Garden Day Sale



This year for the first time gardeners will be able to purchase a selection of **beneficial insects** at the Garden Day Sale. Preying Mantises, Ladybugs, and Green Lacewings are available through your Sale pre-order form. If you have not received your form, please call PG at 625-8280.

The **Praying Mantis** preys on many different insects, especially moths, flies, and grasshoppers. Each egg case will hatch 50-200 young, more than enough to take care of a large community garden.

Green Lacewings are effective natural enemies of aphids, mites, whiteflies, mealybugs, leafhoppers, thrips, all types of moth and butterfly eggs, and caterpillars.

Ladybug adults and larvae feed on small, soft-bodied pests like aphids, mealybugs and spider mites, consuming many times their weight in pests each day.

Deadline for ordering is April 19th.

Branching Out

Arbor Week Calendar of Events

April 6 **"Caring For Trees"** A soup-to-nuts slide presentation of everything from applying for permits, preparing your site, selecting a tree that will do well in the city, planting it, and caring for it into maturity. Presented by Mindy Maslin, PG Tree Education Specialist. 7 PM at the Roxborough Library, Ridge Ave & Hermitage Sts.

8 **"Caring For Trees"** 8 PM at West Philadelphia Library, 39th & Walnut

9 **"Caring For Trees"** 4 PM at Lovett Library, 6945 Germantown Ave

13 **"Caring For Trees"** 7 PM at Northwest Regional Library, Chelten & Green Sts.

15 **"Caring For Trees"** 7 PM at West Phila Regional Library, 52nd & Sansom

18 **Arbor Day Events at the Zoo** Penn's Woods area 9:30 AM to 5 PM
Poster Exhibit (weather permitting) "Trees Wonderful Trees"
Fifteen Philadelphia schools have each contributed a poster which explores the history, value, diversity & hardships of trees.
Environmental Jeopardy (weather permitting) noon to 4 PM on the hour.
Entertainment
Free tree seedling
Tree planting demonstration 12:30 to 4:30 on the half-hour

20-25 **Arbor Week Celebration at the Academy of Natural Sciences**
Mon-Fri showtime 1 PM Sat Showtime 1 PM & 3 PM
Poster Exhibit -- "Trees Wonderful Trees"
Fifteen Philadelphia schools have each contributed a poster which explores the history, value, diversity & hardships of trees.
Environmental Jeopardy
Comes complete with Tree Rap Artist "Monte G" (aka Lemonte Anderson) with assistance from the Phila Ranger Corps.
Sneek preview of questions on next page.
Seed Giveaway
Pot up and take home your own honey locust tree seed with help from Friends Select Middle School Youth Tree Corps members.

24 **Arbor Day**

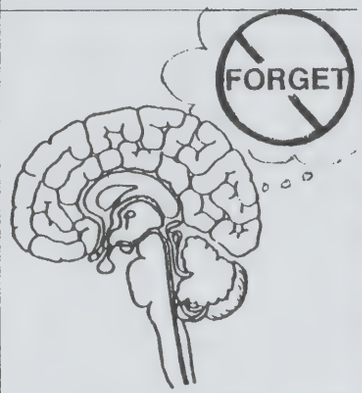
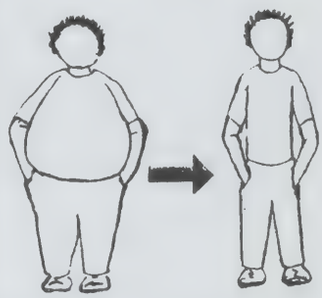
26 **Earth Day Celebration** at Memorial Hall West Fairmount Park 10 AM to 5 PM

28 **Primary Day in Pennsylvania**
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE for the Environmentalist of your choice!!!!

Test Your Environmental IQ

TREE PARTS	TREE ID	TREE CARE What happens when...	RECYCLING
What do a tree and an elephant have in common?		leaves are torn from a tree?	Name three things to recycle at home.
What does bark do?		initials are carved in a tree's bark?	Recycling paper saves _____.
How do leaves feed a tree?		branches are broken off a tree?	What is the difference in recycling and reusing?
What do roots do?		a street tree is surrounded by hard packed soil and weeds?	How does recycling help the planet?

Write answers on a seperate piece of paper and mail to Mindy Maslin, Philadelphia Green, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106-2777. Persons with all answers correct will receive seeds to plant their own trees.

SAVE THE PLANET	TREES & US	CITY TREES	4 R's TO A BETTER PLANET
Name two things that cause pollution.	Three products made from trees.	Two things you like about city trees.	RE
Which of these things is biodegradable?	How do trees help us breathe?	Two ways you can help city trees.	
Why is it important to save the rainforests?	How do trees help save energy?	Two things that can harm trees.	
What creature changes garbage to soil?	Trees absorb what harmful gas?	Three things trees need to survive.	

Clippings

Community News

Twenty-nine people attended a workshop at **St. Simon's Church** in the **Point Breeze Greene Countrie Towne** on February 28th. **Sally McCabe,** PG Education Specialist and **Rick Draper** from **Penn State's Urban Gardening Program** organized the workshop. Gardeners started vegetable and flower seeds in anticipation of spring. In addition, some gardeners planted seeds for tropical cannas which will be entered in the Harvest Show Challenge Class. **Flossie Narducci** spoke about the Harvest Show and the City Gardens Contest. Special thanks go to **Golde Fitzpatrick and Erma Lampkin**, gardeners extraordinaire at St. Simon's.

Four Francisville community members pruned about 35 cherry trees in late February on **Capitol, Parrish and Ogden Streets.** Representing the neighborhood were **Mrs. Clark**, and a team consisting of **Renee and Max Hernandez** and **James Staton,** recruited by **Una Vee Bruce** of the **Concerned Citizens of Francisville**. Philadelphia Green's **Ignatius Weekes** supplied the basic instruction.

Over the past eight months, Philadelphia Green has developed a new relationship with the **Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Association** to increase their awareness and appreciation of trees. **Tree Education Specialist Mindy Maslin** trains the "Bigs" and "Littles" and they go out to work together, caring for trees. So far they have worked at South Philadelphia High and a United Way lot in Delaware County, and have participated in an activity in Rittenhouse Square. The next two programs will occur this spring with an **Arbor Day - Earth Day** activity. The Finale will be a hike and picnic in the woods at Ridley Creek State Park.

Ramon Suarez was honored recently at the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** by about 30 of his friends and neighbors. Over the past twelve years he has been gardening in Norris Square and has donated his produce to the Project which distributes it to other neighborhood agencies. At age 81 he is talking about quitting gardening. But look for him in his garden again, because this is not the first time he has talked about retiring.

Aspen Farms is holding a garden prayer service at **49th & Aspen** to celebrate the new growing season. This event is titled "A Glorious Awakening." It takes place on Easter Saturday, April 18th at 12 noon. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call **Rebecca Melvin** at 879-2727.

Jack Nelson, Coordinator of **Pyramid Point Garden** has won the heart of the local Pep Boys. Pep Boys has hired two neighborhood youth to keep the perimeter of the garden clean and the surrounding area. What an excellent way to help the community!

This year's PG exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show was greatly enhanced by local volunteers. They each gave a short talk on their involvement with gardening, showed slides and answered questions from the public. **Gladys Blackwell, Olivia Blackwell, Iris Brown, Bob Davidson, JoAnn Fishburn, Evelyn Forbes, Lee Gutman, James LaRosa, Steve Maurer, Joyce Richardson, Frank Stefano, Larry Stier, Vivian Van Story, Gloria Trower, Sharon Turner, and Marc Zaharchuk** represented the Center City Greening Project, Children's Gardens, the Friends of the Azalea Garden, Green Countrie Townes Susquehanna and Point Breeze, the Junior Flower Show, Ribbon of Gold, and Philadelphia Housing Authority sites.

Dumping Hotline

Many people start gardens in an effort to clean up lots in their neighborhood. So it's really disheartening to see other properties become eyesores because of dumping.

Philadelphia has made the committment to stop illegal short-dumping through arrests, penalties and vehicle confiscation. YOU can also make a difference. Report dumpers to PhilaPride's 24-hour telephone **DUMPING HOTLINE** at **546-TIPS.** Cash rewards are given for information that leads to an arrest.

On the Vine

Join us for a tour of beautiful **Winterthur** in Delaware. The trip includes a "Two Centuries"tour of the decorative arts and furniture styles, and an open air **Garden Tram Tour** of one of the world's finest examples of a naturalistic garden.

Date:	Tuesday, May 5
Cost:	$ 7.00 per person
Time:	9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Depart from:	The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 325 Walnut Street
Lunch:	On your own in the Visitor Pavilion
	OR Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy in the Picnic House
Enjoy:	Brousing in the Gallery Shops

---------- tear off ----------

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at $7.00 per person.

Name _____

Address _____Zip _____

Phone _____AMOUNT ENCLOSED_____

DEADLINE Friday, April 24th

Make check or money order payable to **PHS** and return to:
Flossie Narducci
PHILADELPHIA GREEN 325 Walnut Street Phila, PA 19106-2777

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Once a week, **Iris Brown** gathers up to a dozen about-to be gardeners for an after-school program at the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**, an urban environmental education center located in Kensington. The youngsters and Iris are joined by **Eugene Reeves**, Philadelphia Green's Youth Program Specialist. Gene consults with community groups that sponsor children's gardening activities.

I visited with **Omaira, Madeline, Ester, Heidy, David, Jesus, Wildelina** and **Calvin** one afternoon in mid-February. The children crowded around the work table where Gene had set the flat of seedlings that had been thriving under grow lights in the basement. The day's activities centered around transplanting tiny lettuce and pigeon pea seedlings.

After Gene had filled the transplant flat with loose potting soil, several children added water. Eager hands reached out to smooth and firm the moistened soil. Faces brightened with the feel of the soil on their palms and fingers. One mischievous boy's comment abou[illegible] anure sent most runni[illegible] sink to wash their hands.

Each child took a turn, carefully lifting a lettuce seedling from the crowded flat. Small fingers delicately placed the roots into a hole made with the end of a pencil. When they talked about pigeon peas, two girls used their Hispanic name of "gandules". Gandules are little brown pea-like beans used in favorite Puerto Rican dishes. Norris Square gardeners like Iris and **Tomasita Romero** have been growing this long-season crop for many years. However, this is the first time the children have been recruited to grow the transplants. In his eagerness, one little boy bent the tender stem of a pigeon pea. It was easy for the others to see just how fragile young plants can be.

The children's final lesson was bug control. They observed tiny aphids lunching on the seedlings. Gene suggested they keep the population under control by picking the bugs off and squishing them between their fingers. There was a general outcry of "Yuck!" Then Gene named several girls to be in charge of the bug patrol. By the end of the session, Ester and Heidy were busily snuffing out the offending aphids.

Share your garden story. Call me at 625-8280.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

April 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 14, No. 4 May 1992

AROUND CENTER CITY GREEN

Azalea Garden Friends Primp For The Annual Display

Kate Swartz

The **Friends of the Azalea Garden** will be working busily over the next few months to prepare the garden for its yearly color extravaganza in May. Volunteer extraordinaire **Marc Zaharchuk** hopes everyone will stop on their way by to walk through the garden this spring.

The **Azalea Garden** has always been a favorite spot for Philadelphians. Located behind the Art Museum along Kelly Drive, it is a place to picnic and relax, to paint a picture of a favorite azalea, or to have that cherished wedding photograph taken, with the garden as the perfect setting.

When the garden fell into neglect and disrepair in the mid 1980's, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, in cooperation with Fairmount Park, undertook its restoration. The garden was renovated with private funds and rededicated in May, 1990.

Over the past three years, PHS has installed 70 trees, 1,000 shrubs, 10,000 perennials, and 34,000 flowering bulbs. The new pergola and brick terrace create a formal entrance, and 14 benches were installed throughout the garden.

Today, PHS and the Friends of the Azalea Garden are responsible for horticultural maintenance of this four acre garden. The Friends conduct monthly Garden Days (please see below) from March to December to tackle such tasks as pruning, planting, weeding, deadheading, litter pickup, and other light maintenance. **Heyser Landscaping, Inc.** performs the larger tasks of lawn and bed maintenance, mulching, tree care, and integrated pest management. **Bartlett Tree Experts** has generously donated additional help for some of the Garden's wonderful trees.

Expenses for this contracted maintenance are partially met by funds raised by the **Azalea Garden Party**, held in May when the garden is in full bloom. This year's fundraiser will be **Thursday, May 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** The remainder of the costs are met by corporate contributions as well as by Friends of the Azalea Garden memberships.

If you would like to join the Friends, attend the Garden Party, obtain a schedule of upcoming workdays and events, or to volunteer your gardening skills in the Garden, please call staff coordinator **Kate Swartz at 625-8280.**

*Ribbon of Gold plantings at **2100 Spring Garden Street***

New Ribbon of Gold at Penn's Landing

Kathryn Newland

A new, snazzy **Ribbon of Gold** is being planned for the river side of **Delaware Avenue between Market and Chestnut Streets.** We've been brainstorming with local artist **James Fuhrman** about ideas for the site. We'll certainly plant our yellow-flowering perennials, but there may also be a few "artistic surprises. Art and Nature (the original artist) combine well, so keep your eyes open for a spectacular Ribbon of Gold in full bloom this summer.

If you are out and about town, remember to ride by our Ribbon of Gold plantings at **Eastern State Penitentiary** and along **Spring Garden Street** and see their riot of color from June to October. Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of **Neighbors**, the **Fairmount Parents**, and the **Business and Neighbors Association**, these healthy and thriving perennial plantings are making a difference in the neighborhoods

Free Seeds

The America the Beautiful Fund provides FREE SEEDS to community groups for the price of postage. Requests of more than 50 packets must be accompanied by a description of your project.

For more information, contact:
America the Beautiful Fund
219 Shoreham Building,
Washington, DC 20005
202-638-1649

Videotapes

If you were unable to hear **Jeff Ball**, popular author, garden researcher and recent lecturer at **Penn State Urban Gardening's Winter Workshop Series**, take heart. **Neighborhood Gardens Association/Philadelphia Land Trust** now offers a set of Jeff Ball's "Yardening" videotape series available for gardeners to borrow.

Watch Jeff Ball demonstrate his many gardening tips and tricks at your leisure! Titles include **"How to Grow Flowers", "How to Grow Healthy Houseplants", "How to Grow Cool-Weather Vegetables", "How to Design and Build a Vegetable Garden"** and **"How to Design a Flower Garden."**

Yardening is a new kind of gardening program that teaches you to garden more successfully with less effort, by combining modern scientific methods with time-proven techniques from all over the world. This video program has been endorsed by the National Gardening Association.

Call Elayne at NGA at 625-8264 if you would like to borrow a tape.

Don't Miss It!!!!!

City Gardens Contest registration deadline is June 10.
Call 625-8280 to register.

Secret Gardens

Tour a baker's dozen urban gardens in the **Cedar Park/Squirrel Hill** neighborhoods of University City, sponsored by the **Spruce Hill Garden Club** and the **Warrington Community Garden**. Among the highlights will be unusual city gardens, including a private garden with a lily pond, a bonsai collection, a third floor deck/treehouse, a sculpture garden, and examples of successful container gardening. Gardeners will be on hand for explanations and advice.

The event will also feature several public efforts to beautify the neighborhoods and preserve open greenspaces, including community gardens at **47th & Warrington, 48th & Chester,** and **49th & Florence**.

Tickets will be available on the day of the tour. Advance sale tickets can be purchased from local merchants. **For more info call 387-3057**. Proceeds benefit the Spruce Hill Garden Club, Warrington Community Garden, and Friends of Clark Park.

Date: Sunday, May 17, 1992
Time: Noon to 4 PM
Place: Tour begins at **Warrington Community Garden**, between 47th & 48th south of Baltimore.
Cost: $10

Tomato Races

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the **"Second Annual First Vine-Ripened Tomato" Contest,** sponsored by **Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA)**. This year, first and second ripe tomato both get a prize. First prize: a gardening video featuring the researched and tested expert gardening techniques of Jeff Ball. Second prize: a "Garden Passport" with passes to some of the area's most beautiful gardens (including Longwood Gardens.)

An NGA staffer must see the tomato on the vine. **Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when tomato begins to ripen**. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Clippings

Community News

Mamie Nichols' persistence has paid off. For some time she has been working to turn the old Landreth School building into a senior citizens' residence. Now she has obtained the resources to make it happen including funding from OHCD . The project is being developed by Penrose Properties. There are plans for a landscaped courtyard with trees which will improve the site. Mamie and the **Point Breeze Federation** are tremendously pleased that this development is happening.

Several hearts skipped a beat when **Blaine Bonham** of PG and **John Paone** and **Alice Bantom** of the Philadelphia Housing Authority declared **Champlost Homes** a Greene Countrie Towne. It happened at the very successful **1992 Gardeners' Gala Brunch** at the Philadelphia Flower Show. The announcement had been planned for several months, but word never leaked out. Congratulations to the Champlost Gardeners!

PG and Urban Gardening are working together on a demonstration garden on N. Second Street in **Norris Square**. **Maureen O'Hara**, Urban Gardening coordinator expects that this demo garden will become a place for several generations to work together. Penn State Extension staffer **Marian Luongo** will build and coordinate a composting demo area. PG Coordinator **Eileen Gallagher** will use recycled plastic lumber to build the raised beds. **Cliff Moser**, a landscape architect who volunteers at Urban Gardening, designed the plan. It includes a gazebo, fruit trees and a children's garden. Raised beds are shielded from the street by attractive flower berms. The site has been cleaned and work will start soon.

What do peanuts, okra, amaranth and acacia trees have in common? PG Youth Program Specialist **Eugene Reeves** is passing out these seedlings to youth groups interested in their African heritage. Gene purchased the seeds from ECHO, an organization in Florida which gives seeds to Third World countries.

Correction - Last month's newsletter incorrectly listed the Indians of Puerto Rico as the Bohios. This was the name of the huts they constructed.

Staff Stuff

There was a lot of excitement about **Barbara Bush's** visit to the Flower Show. She stopped to see the PG exhibit and met exhibit designer **Anne Vallery**. **Bob Davidson,** a volunteer from the Center City Residents Association was posted at the exhibit along with Tree Coordinator **Sue Phillips** who "talked trees" to Mrs. Bush. **Flossie Narducci** was in the right place to snap a photo of "Bar" and PHS President **Jane Pepper** on the escalator (see above).

Some of those one-of-a-kind decorative pieces from the PG Exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show have come home to roost at our offices. The colorful columns modeled after the Village of Art and Humanities' (Ile Ife) life-size art were constructed by **Anne Vallery, Jim Holohan, Julia Sokol, Winfred Young, James "Big Man" Maxton** and others. The sculptures attracted lots of attention at the show and may start a trend in artwork for community gardens.

Philadelphia Green staff had an important role in the recent NE Regional Conference of the American Community Gardening Association in New York City. Staffers **Blaine Bonham, Mike Groman, Mindy Maslin, Jeff Myers,** and **Anne Vallery** took part in panel discussions. **Sally McCabe** and **Janet Carter** were "a part of the crowd".

26th Street Gateway: Several Shades Greener

by Blaine Bonham

Gradually the transformation is taking place. The once embarrassing gateway to Philadelphia, that one mile stretch of ugly landscape from the airport linking Penrose Avenue and the Expressway, is becoming a pleasant welcome to visitors and a surprise to long time residents. With funding from local corporations, hotels and airlines, PHS first landscaped the northwest corner of the **Penrose and 26th Street** intersection in 1990, moving towards the City. Last year **Sun Company** generously funded the new landscape of meadows and half of the fence line along their property. Now that area is filled with hedge rows, flowering trees, ornamental grasses, junipers, and Ribbon of Gold perennials. **Dick Jackman**, Director of Corporate Communications, has announced Sun's decision to fund landscaping for the remainder of their fence line up to the Expressway, with construction to begin in fall 1992.

Landscape construction will begin on the other three corners of the intersection this summer. Gone is the hot dog stand and parking lot on one corner, and the small buildings on the other corner are scheduled to be demolished soon. The City's **Streets Department** will administer the construction and Center City Green will monitor the project, funded through a combination of federal, state and city monies. A big thanks to Deputy Streets Commissioner **Joe Syrnick** for his major role in seeing this project underway, and to the Streets Department for adopting part of 26th Street by volunteering for quarterly cleanups.

Other big news is **CONRAIL**'s recent financial commitment for the landscaping and maintenance of their rail line embankments along 26th Street. **Charles Marshall**, a Senior Vice President for CONRAIL, says that the company is "pleased to be able to take a major role in helping to welcome visitors to our city at this important gateway." The first phase of the Conrail work will begin in late spring.

In addition, we want to thank the **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation** for its site preparation support, as well as other corporate donors who have helped us launch this project.

*Blaine Bonham is Director of **Philadelphia Green** and **Center City Green.***

*Kathryn Newland is Project Coordinator/ Landscape Architect with **Center City Green***

PLANTING TRANSPLANTS

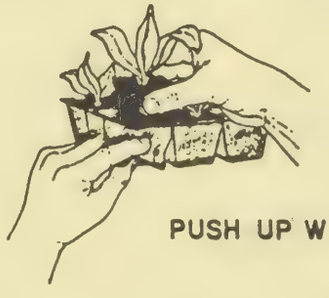
WHEN YOU BRING A PLANT HOME

MAKE SURE YOUR NURSERY
PLANTS DON'T DRY OUT.

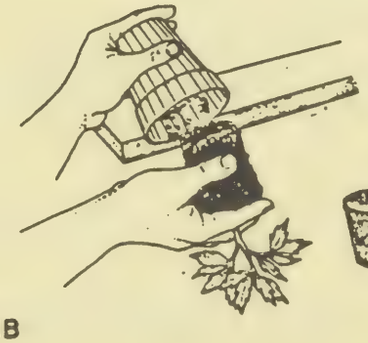
TRANSPLANT WHEN CONDITIONS ARE BEST

SOON AFTER A RAIN... ...OR ON A CLOUDY DAY... ...OR IN LATE AFTERNOON

HOW TO PLANT



PUSH UP WITH THUMB



REMOVE PLANTS GENTLY
FROM CONTAINERS.

AFTER PLANTING, FIRM THE SOIL AROUND THE ROOT BALL AND
WATER TO REMOVE AIR POCKETS AND SETTLE THE SOIL.
AFTER THE SOIL SETTLES, ADD ENOUGH DRY SOIL TO FILL THE HOLE.

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila., PA 19106 625-8280

Tips for Transplanting

Pick the perfect transplant

- buy short, stocky plants
- look for vegetable plants that DON'T have either flowers or fruit
- look for flower plants that DON'T have flower buds
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best

- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon
- after soil is amended and turned

How to plant

- remove gently from pot
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly with a knife
- for plants in peat pots, carefully peel away any of the pot that is above the level of the soil in the pot.
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole.

One week later

- water with liquid plant food, following directions on label.

Planting Outdoors in May

Plant seeds:
annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
cucumbers
herbs
lettuce
peanuts
squash

Plant transplants:
broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:
peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

Center City Trees Turn Over A New Leaf

by Kathryn Newland

In partnership with the **Center City Resident's Assocation**, Center City Green has undertaken a street tree project funded by a grant from the **Pew Charitable Trusts**. Committed neighborhood tree lovers want to revitalize the tree population in the area bounded by Walnut, South, Broad and the Schuylkill River, and the with the help of **The Delta Group**, a landscape architectural consultant, are developing a 5-year plan.

An army of volunteers conducted an inventory of street trees in the area last May. Information was collected for each of the 2,207 trees. After the data was computerized, it was analyzed to determine the patterns of health and decay of the tree population and used to develop a Greening Plan. This plan will outline opportunities for new tree plantings, target maintenance priorities, and recommend urban-tolerant tree species and new planting methods.

Major pruning work was done on selected trees and several dead ones were removed in January, as the first phase of implementation. The Project Committee has great plans set for the spring. First, a demonstration street tree planting will be installed at the Philadelphia School using state-of-the-art methods. Planted in a continuous trench with its own drainage system, the trees should have a longer, healthier life. Students at the school voted on the tree species to be planted — Crimean Linden.

Second, look for trees sprouting up throughout the neighborhood in larger, better drained tree pits! Research has shown that trees need more than 3' x 3' pits to thrive, especially in the urban environment. The **Fairmount Park Commission** will assist in these experimental plantings this spring, as it has helped with the Center City Residents Assocation's tree planting efforts in the past.

Fund raising for future efforts and for a super tree planting on three blocks of **Locust Street** in the commercial core of the neighborhood are in full swing. There is even talk of a Ginkgo Festival! Tree care information is being collected and assembled, neighborhood outreach undertaken, and tree maintenance plans are in the works. Our subcommittee chairs **Bob Davidson, Gene Dichter, Patrick Eleey, Susan Hall, Cecily Kihn and Frank Stefano** are dedicated and determined tree champions.

City Hall in Bloom

Thanks to a grant from **Provident National Bank**, City Hall will sport a burst of color this spring. On the heels of a major citizen clean-up of our city treasure in March, **Fairmount Park** and **PHS** staff members are working together on a design and organizing a volunteer work day to plant in the courtyard and tree beds on the north and east sidewalks of City Hall with colorful pink, red and purple annuals. The planting is scheduled for May 21st (Rain Date May 22nd.) If you would like to volunteer, please call Kate Swartz at 625-8280 or return the tear-off below.

City Hall in Bloom

Send to: Kate Swartz, Volunteer Coordinator
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

I would like to help plant annuals at City Hall on:

_____ Thursday, May 21 9:00 - noon Name: _____

_____ Thursday, May 21 1:00 - 4:00 Address: _____

_____ I am available for the RAIN DATE: Friday, May 21

_____

Phone #: _____

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme

Make an Herb Wreath

Bring a harvest of flavor and color indoors for your kitchen, door or tabletop. Register for this two session workshop by calling Flossie at 625-8280.

1st Session: select herb plants to be used in your wreath. Learn about the care and culture of growing herbs and drying them for later use. Take home your favorite varieties to grow in your garden over the summer.

Saturday, May 16 10:00 AM
Brickyard Farms, 43rd & Sansom Sts.

2nd Session: construct your long-lasting sweet-smelling herb wreath with the herbs harvested from your garden. Bring your dried herbs. All other construction materials will be provided.

Friday, September 11 10:00 AM
St. Simon's Church, 22nd & Reed Sts.

Coming Up in May

May 2	**Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale** Fairmount Park Horticultural Center 10 AM to 4 PM	For info, call 625-8280
May 5	**Winterthur Trip** Leave 3rd & Walnut 8:30 AM	For info, call Flossie, 625-8280
May 16	**Urban Gardening Program Plant Sale** (plants, supplies & workshops) UGP Demo Garden, 48thSt. north of Market 9 AM to 1 PM	For more info, call the GardenPhone, 560-4167
May 17	**Secret Gardens Tour** 47th & Warrington Garden Noon to 4:00 PM	For info, call James Smith, 748-7335
May 18-21	**Junior Flower Show** -- 1st Bank, 3rd St below Chestnut Monday, May 18, 11 AM to 5 PM Wed, May 20, 9:30 - 5 Thurs, May 21 9:30 - 6:30	Registration Open to the Public Open to the Public
May 21	**City Hall in Bloom** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	For info, call Kate Swartz at 625-8280
May 25	**Azalea Garden Workday** For more info, call Kate Swartz at 625-8280	
May 29 - June 7	**First Annual Philadelphia Country Fair** Memorial Hall	The works!!!! For brochure, call 1-800-749-3247

Be an Olympic Champion

Harvest of Champions

Register to receive **FREE** seeds for the Challenge Classes of the 1992 Harvest Show, ***Harvest of Champions***.

What is a Challenge Class?

All participants grow their entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in this class are judged according to how typical they are to a variety standard. Participants will bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 24th or Friday September 25th.

The 1992 selections are:

Dill 'Fernleaf'

Elegant dwarf plants grow only 18' tall and are ideal for smaller gardens and containers. They flower later, allowing for a longer harvest of foliage, which has superb dill flavor. Abundant seeds can be used as flavoring for pickles. Finely divided dark green leaves are very ornamental, as are the large flower heads which grow up to 5" across.

Canna Tropical Rose

Canna 'Tropical Rose'

Grow canna from seed! Blooms in ninety days from sowing, in warm conditions. 4-inch soft rose flowers are continually produced on 3-foot plants until frost. Good for large containers.

Hot Pepper 'Habanero'

In the Caribbean, these 1 1/2 inch-long chilies are known as "Scotch Bonnets" for their shape, that of a tall "tam-o'-shanter" hat. The bright orange color & intense fiery heat is the classic ingredient in Caribbean barbecue meat marinades & pastes & sauces. Even if you aren't a confirmed afficionado with a true passion for the hottest of hots, you'll enjoy growing them for their ornamental qualities.

tear off and return

I would like to enter the 1992 Harvest Show Challenge Class. Please send me the following seeds:

_____ **Dill 'Fernleaf'** _____ **Canna 'Tropical Rose'** _____ **Pepper 'Habanero'**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Please return to:

Flossie Narducci
CHALLENGE CLASS
325 Walnut Street
Phila PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

A circle of friends gathered on the first day of spring to celebrate the life of a gifted gardener, beloved friend and dedicated teacher. Almena Montiero, who passed in mid-March, was a well-known maker of fragrant soap, healing salve and tasty wine. Mees, as she was also known, had lived a long, full life. Her friends and family came together as a community of hearts to find the joy and ease the pain.

Her son, Tony, acknowledged her as "mother to many." Others attested to the light she carried, shining so clearly in the radiance of her smile. As I listened, I saw scattered throughout the light-filled church, some of her gardening friends, Beverly Agard, Joe Revlock, Terry Mushovic and Libby Goldstein.

Elizabeth Hicks, who shares Almena's way with herbs, transported the congregation with a song of spirit, that expressed so magnificently the sadness of loss and the triumph of release.

Annie D. Hyman, wearing vibrant colors of the spring garden, exemplified those qualities of grace and quiet dignity so loved in Almena.

Reverend Gus Roman, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, North Philadelphia, described Almena Monteiro as a woman of spirit and power. He called her a quiet urban reformer who continued to live near 12th and Wallace to be a source of hope and comfort for her neighbors. The Reverend reminded us that Almena shunned the limelight, looking instead for opportunities to quietly encourage and support.

I stopped by Almena's garden a few hours later. Tiny rose leaves glowed pink in the afternoon sun. Almena's garden reflected the touch of her hand. Bricks, hauled from neighboring vacant lots, formed paths and edged beds. A wooden trellis supported the bare grape vine which held the promise of new wine in its swelling buds. The pruned canes and mounded mulch around the many rose bushes spelled tender loving care. A three foot pile of compost was ready and waiting. On the fence, dried pods of hyacinth bean hung from last year's vine.

I drew comfort from these symbols of Almena's presence in the garden. As I turned to leave, I slipped several bean pods into my pocket. Almena's special commitment to children inspired me to pass the seeds on to our new generation of gardeners. The kids from Norris Square Neighborhood Project and the Michael Jordan 4-H Club will plant some of "Mees's Hyacinth Bean" in their gardens this spring. I can just see Almena smile at that.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

May 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 14, No.5 June 1992

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Strawberry Mansion Starts Seeds

by Ignatius Weekes

Strawberry Mansion gardeners sponsored a **Seed Starting Workshop** at the **Scattered Sites office, 3100 Cecil B. Moore Avenue**. This workshop was well-attended by many eager gardeners. PG's Education Specialist **Iggy Weekes** led the workshop. He covered such topics as early seed starting indoors, transplanting outdoors into cold frames, and hardening off. House plant care was also discussed. Each person went home with her own Seed Starting Kit, seeds and fertilizer. They were joined by PG Staff **Verlene Johnson, Delcina Wigfall** and **Melinda Johnson**. Gardeners attending included **Rosa Bell Boderick, Lynnette Cheatham, Geneva Coleman, Florie A. Dotson, Cornelia Harris, Geraldine Horsey, Estelle C. Langford, Carrie Longly, Dottie Smith, Eunice Smith, Diane Wescott, Ethel Williams,** and **Rosa Lee Young**.

Ozone Lot

by Steve Maurer

The temporary garden at **22nd & South Streets**, nicknamed the **Ozone Park** by involved neighbors, has been taken over by its owner, **Graduate Hospital**. Although the property was originally designated as a parking lot, Graduate is willing to work with the immediate community and will tie some of the space in with their own landscaping plans. This is a true victory for the neighborhood and for the concept of Philadelphia Green.

For years the property attracted trash and debris. A spontaneous cleaning resulted in a garden that lasted two years. Donated plants from Philadelphia Green brought the garden in line with the Ribbon of Gold concept. Present plans include at least three full size trees, (repairwork on the sidewalk included wells left for the trees), some shrubs, and perennials to be maintained by Graduate.

Dedication Dates Set

by Verlene Johnson

Spring is officially here, with things starting to green up. Dormant lawns are coming to life. What a great time of year....The date of the dedication of Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne has been set for **September 18th and 19th.**

Festivities on Friday, September 18th will focus on the area around Tanner Triangle, 28th, Diamond and Sedgley, involving Strawberry Mansion participation in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green. Saturday, September 19th is designated as People's Day. Celebrations will be at two primary locations: 1) **Diamond Street** and 2) **32nd to the edge of Fairmount Park on 33rd Street around Turner Street.**

Special Thanks

Many thanks to all of you who supported Philadelphia Green in the Office of Housing and Community Development's budget hearings before City Council in April. We appreciate all who collected signatures to mail to Council members and who came out to the hearing to show your support.

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.,
Executive Director
Philadelphia Green

From the Editor

As I sat down to put together the June PG News, something wonderful happened — I realized that other people had written all of the articles!!! And all of them had written their stories better than I ever could have!

In this issue we find some old friends and a few new guests. Because of the many requests we have had for more advanced horticultural information, advisory board member **Frank Kieser** volunteered to write about his specialty, growing scented geraniums. **Steve Maurer** of the Ozone Lot tells us about neighborhood victories in garden preservation. **Lydia Fonseca** writes to us about the **Michael Jordan 4-H Club** and its accomplishments. **Blanche Epps** talks to **Patricia Schrieber** about her container garden behind her house on Litchfield St. **Verlene Johnson,** Neighborhood Coordinator for Strawberry Mansion, updates us on goings-on with the upcoming Dedication, and Ignatius Weekes, Education Specialist for the same neighborhood, tells us about their seed starting workshop. And **Kate Swartz**, Volunteer Coordinator for Center City Green, offers us her beautifully worded impressions of working at the PG Flower Show exhibit.

We hope that all of these talented people will come back on a regular basis. **We also hope that if you other readers out there have a specialty, you'll come forward and tell all.**

Newsletter Expanding

Due to popular demand, the PG News will be expanding its circulation to include gardeners as well as garden coordinators. If you know of any gardeners who would like to receive the newsletter, please send their names to PG News, attention Sally McCabe.

You may be the only person in your garden or on your block receiving the PG News. **PLEASE PASS THIS COPY ALONG!!!**

Soda Update

Here's a small item of interest for those of you who read the article on Making Soda a few months ago in Cultivating Kids. Several readers have asked whether the wine yeast recommended can accidentally turn the soda into an alcoholic beverage. The answer is a resounding NO!!, as long as you add the recommended amount of sugar. The yeast will use up all the available sugar long before it is able to produce alcohol.

Don't Miss It!!!!!

City Gardens Contest registration deadline is June 10. Enter your garden or be a Contest Judge.

Call 625-8280 to register.

Clippings

Community News

Philadelphia Green's Executive Director **Blaine Bonham** spoke at City Council Hearings in April for the program's year 18 Block Grant funding. He talked about the benefits of gardening to the city and how important it was to plan for green open space when revitalizing areas. **Gladys Blackwell** of PHA's **Emlen Arms** Garden Club accompanied Blaine. She emphasized how necessary community gardening is, especially to senior citizens in her residence.

The message of Arbor Day went from one end of the city to the other. **Mindy Maslin**, Tree Education Specialist, presented the educational game show "Environmental Jeopardy" with tree information for many groups including Norris Square, several schools at Old Rittenhousetown, the Academy of Natural Sciences, The Philadelphia Zoo and Earth Day in the Park.

Mindy and staff person **Sally McCabe** also traveled to the Defense Logistics Support Center at 20th & Oregon. Several colonels competed fiercely to win "Environmental Jeopardy". About 200 government employees enjoyed the program.

Alice Robertson hosted the first meeting of the **Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne Garden Club**. Approximately 20 people attended this successful event and agreed to meet every other month in different gardens.

Johnson Homes' Vegetable Garden is on a "roll". All plots are full and there's even a waiting list. **Elaine Young** and **Gertrude Dyer**, two Johnson Homes residents, went on a field trip to Snipes Nursery with **Debbie Hall**, PHA coordinator. The team picked out plants for the shade structure. They had a great time doing it. Look for grape vines soon.

Some came in person. Some in the mail. Some by fax. They deluged Activities Coordinator **Flossie Narducci** up to the cut-off date. "They" were orders for our Spring Garden Sale. Over three hundred orders set a new record in the Sale's history.

A small group led by **Marion Faison** and **James Atkinson** is making a difference in their part of **Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne**. These gentlemen drilled holes in garden barrels for the **1900 Block of North Stanley Street**. They maintain a lot at **3000 N. Norris Street**. Recently they called to ask **Coordinator Verlene Johnson** if there is any other work needed. Any suggestions?

Advisory Board member **Laura Sims** received a Humanitarian Award in March for her service to the community. She has worked hard to green the Cobbs Creek area and to establish the local ice skating rink. Laura was totally surprised because she thought she was attending a testimonial dinner for **Congressman Lucien Blackwell**. The Congressman, Philadelphia Green's Advisory Board and Laura's daughter all had a part in the plan.

Staff Stuff

Congratulations to Education Manager, **Patricia Schrieber**! She just celebrated her 14th anniversary with Philadelphia Green and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

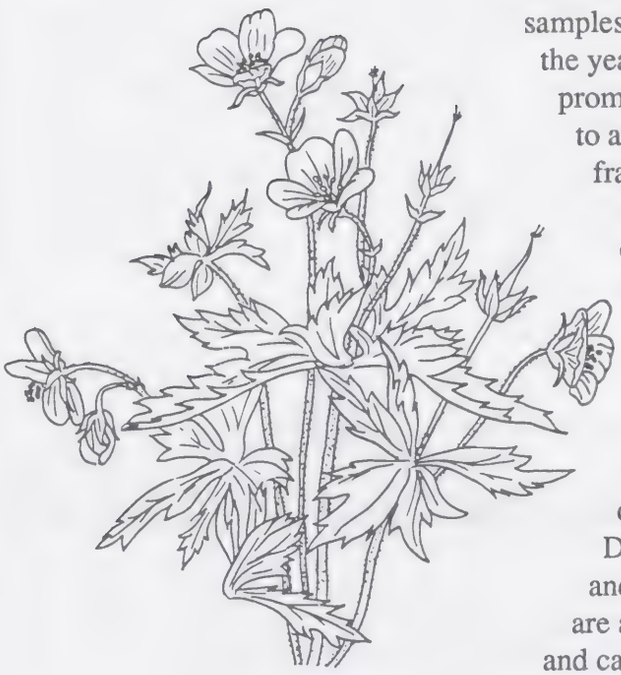
Circulating Cookie Crumbs Curtail Conference

by Steven G. Maurer

The recent Advisory Board meeting at our Walnut Street office was cut short by an unexplained fire alarm. The alarm brought the Philadelphia Fire Department and the National Park Service (who are responsible for the building). Although the Advisory Board was scolded by the guard for not leaving the premises quickly enough, we did appreciate the quick response on the part of the Fire Department. After Board members and staff watched a gorgeous sunset outside and returned to the premises, an official informed us that the alarm was probably set off by cookie crumbs circulating in the air.

Dr. Livingston's Party

by Frank Kieser



Dr. Livingston recently announced a garden party at his home. Among his guests will be **Mabel Gray, Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Taylor, Joy Lucille**, and his dear friend **Fair Ellen**. **Prince Rupert** and **Lady Plymouth** have been invited to add a hint of royalty. **Apple Cider** and **Chocolate Mints** will be the treat of the day.

He describes his garden as including a collection of roses, fruit, spices and nuts. Old fashioned Roses, Lime, Orange, Apple, Apricot, Almond, Filbert and Nutmeg are but a few of the samples he has collected over the years. A gentle rain is promised the evening before, to assure a wonderfully fragrant affair.

The good doctor's only concern is room for the newsmen and their equipment, since his garden is only 20' long by 3' wide.

Before you conclude that I am completely crazy, let me explain that Dr. Livingston, his friends and his garden specimens are all **scented geraniums** and can easily be grown in a plot of ground this size.

Botanically members of the Geraneaceae family, the genus Pelargonium derives its name in part from the similarity of its seed pod to a stork's bill. The Latin word *Pelargos* means stork.

Native to South Africa where they are perennial and in some cases grow to the size of small trees, scented geraniums traveled by ship to Europe by the middle of the 17th century, and to this country by the middle of the 18th century. They are frost sensitive, however, and must be protected by bringing indoors in winter in most of the U.S.

Grown primarily for the fragrance of their leaves and use in potpourri, they also have culinary uses, like flavorings for sugar, tea, apple jelly and pound cake.

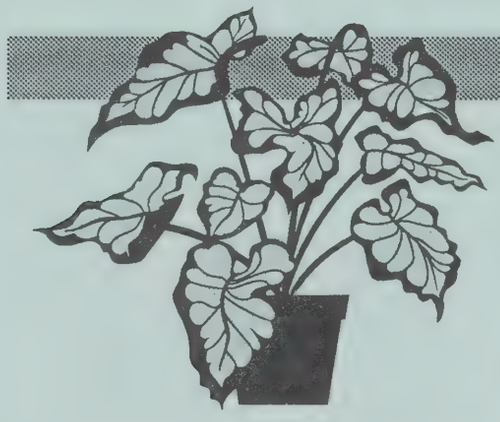
Leaf shape, color and texture add a pleasant visual effect in the garden. Some are smooth, others fuzzy; some flat, some curly. There are many shades of green, and some are variegated. Leaves come in a variety of shapes, like oak, and crow's or pheasant's foot.

Many varieties will bloom on occasion, displaying shades of white, pink and lavender. Upright coconut (P. patulum) has small yellow flowers all year round.

Scented geraniums love full sun and demand good drainage. I grow them in 10" or 3-gallon pots since they enjoy being potbound. They will, however, do nicely planted directly in the ground.

If you are the sort of person who enjoys organizing a collection into catagories, you may find the following useful. These are based on scent or growing habits. Each catagory contains many varieties:

rose
lemon
mint
spice
pungent
oak leaf
fruit and nut



PHILADELPHIA GREEN

JUNE

Horticulture Hints

What to Plant in June

From Seed
beans
beats
carrots
collards
corn
cucumbers
pumpkins
squash
herbs
dahlias
marigolds
peanuts

From Plants
broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
celery
cucumbers
eggplant
peppers
tomatoes
sweet potatoes
okra
squash
herbs
perennials

June & July are the times to start planning for your fall garden. And successful planning rests on your being able to count backwards.

Pick up any seed packet. Chances are good that somewhere in the planting instructions will be the important item DAYS TO HARVEST. This is an estimate of how long it will take before you'll be able to start picking anything of a reasonable size. This means the first leaf of lettuce, the first radish, the first taste of kale.

Since fall crops generally taste better if they mature in the cooler weather of September and October, take the days to harvest figure and begin to count backward from the beginning of October. Kale, which takes at least 60 days to mature. (Count back — September, August, and start plants in July.) 90 days brings you back to June, 100 days puts you to work even sooner.

June Tips

- Prune shrubs after they bloom
- Divide, plant, and fertilize perennials
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming
- Plant annuals
- Plant tender bulbs
- Apply mulch to plantings
- Check for insects and diseases
- Trim and plant ground covers
- Plant perennials and biennials for bloom next year
- Stake tall plants as they start to grow
- Remove dead flowers from plants to encourage new blooms
- Start seeds for fall crops
- Start or improve your compost pile. For more information about composting, call the Penn State Gardenphone at 560-4167

Planting in June

When starting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seedlings germinate much faster are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care they get enough water during this stage of development.

Garden Vacancies

There are many reasons for garden vacancies over the course of the growing season. Some plants fall prey to bugs and large feet; some develop diseases and need to be removed; others are harvested for the dinner table. Starting a mini-nursery will guarantee that you have plants available to fill in these holes as they appear.

Pick a spot in the garden to start seedlings. A cold frame is ideal, since it provides a little protection along with fresh air and lots of sun. An area of a few square feet is enough for your nursery, as seeds can be sown close together. They don't mind the crowding, since they'll be transplanted later out into the garden, where they'll have plenty of room to stretch their legs.

Prepare soil at least a foot deep with plenty of organic matter, like compost. This holds moisture, helps add nutrients, and makes life easy for tender seedlings. Start lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, collards, and even a few tomatoes here for late planting as replacement plants. As a vacancy turns up in the garden, transplant a seedling to fill it.

You can also use the nursery to start perennials and biennials from seed. Many perennials don't flower until the second season, but planting them now gives you the jump on next year. Pansies, shasta daisies, primroses, foxglove, delphiniums and hollyhocks can all be started for bloom next year.

Crop of the Month

Cauliflower planted in April should have flower buds the size of a fist by now. Blanching them will produce the biggest, whitest heads. In this case, blanching does not mean boiling lightly. What it does mean is tying up the large outer leaves over the flower head to keep out the sun. Cauliflower heads exposed to sunlight turn tough and green, and although they're still edible, they will taste very bitter.

To blanch, pull the outer leaves into a topknot. Tie them together with string or a rubber band. Keep them that way until harvest. Another way to blanch is to simply break a few leaves over the top of the head. With either method, always do it on a dry, sunny day so moisture won't be trapped inside and rot the buds.

Worm Farms

Worms - kids either love or hate them! As with most things, once children really understand what worms are about, they are more likely to treat them as an important part of life rather than hurting them. Worms add so much to garden soil. They keep the soil loose by making tunnels, and their castings (excrement) adds nutrients.

Once you learn about what worms do for your garden, then it's time to grow them. In the city, a metal can or plastic bucket makes a good container for worm growing. Cover the top with screening that will let in air, light and moisture but not dogs or cats. Add healthy clippings from the garden mixed with kitchen wastes (no meat products please), manure, soil and used coffee grounds. (Use equal proportions of soil, manure and clippings or waste and 1 cup of coffee grounds.) Let this mixture sit in the container for a few days, then add about 6 worms. Every few days, add more kitchen waste and clippings. Stir once a week and keep the mixture moist. In just a short time, you'll have lots of worms.

After one month, mix some of the worms and compost into the garden soil.

Growing Scented Geraniums

Growing in ground

Turn soil to a depth of 10-12". Thoroughly mix in generous amounts of leaf mold, compost or peat moss.

Growing in pots

Place small rocks in the bottom to weight them so they won't blow over in a storm. Fill pot with a mixture of potting soil, peat and some perlite. (I use a 50/50 mixture of Pro Mix and potting soil.) Allow to dry out somewhat between waterings. Feeding every other week with Miracle Gro will produce amazing results.

Prune periodically by cutting growing tips to encourage bushiness rather than height.

When bringing in for the winter, cut back by at least one third and place in a sunny window. If space is limited, take cuttings (which root easily) and have a collection of fresh specimens to start off next spring.

Meanwhile, Dr. Livingston thanks you for your interest in his garden party preparations. You might want to drop by at 4249 Sansom St. some weekend for a tour. Call his good friend Frank at 386-2313 to make arrangements.

Many Pelargonium carry the name of their scent. Others mentioned here carry human proper names. In order to help you out with their scent I submit this chart:

Name	Scent
Pretty Polly	Almond
Lady Plymouth	Rose
Mabel Gray	Bitter Lemon
Prince Rupert	Light Lemon
Joy Lucille	Mint
Dr. Livingston	Rose

Mrs. Kingsley, Mrs. Taylor and Fair Ellen all have strong scents which are not easily identifiable, and are grown primarily for their flowers.

HOW TO BUILD A FLOWER TOWER

Flower towers were a popular Challenge Class at the Harvest Show several years ago. Back here by popular demand, they are an easy way to grow flowers, herbs, scented geraniums, or even strawberries in very little space.

- Construct the tower in a partially shaded area
- Put PVC pipe in the center of the empty 12 inch plastic pot.
- Pour gravel in the pot, around the pipe, to hold up the pipe and to act as drainage.
- Lay the turkey wire on the ground and roll it into a cylinder that will fit into the pot. Using pliers, fasten both ends with pieces of wire or twistems.
- Put the cylinder into the pot.
- Cover the entire cylinder with plastic. Fill the pot and cylinder with potting mix. Punch rows of holes in plastic with the holes being 4 inches apart.
- Plant the seedlings in the holes you have made and in the top opening.
- Water well.
- It will be important to keep the plants evenly moist. Water each individual plant and the drainage tube. Feel the soil daily to check for dryness.
- The tower should be fertilized every two weeks.
- Turn the tower 1/4 turn weekly to be sure the plants all get the same amount of light.

MATERIALS:

12 inch plastic or clay pot
36" high 12" around column of turkey wire (Some people have made smaller towers out of upside-down tomato cages)
PVC pipe with holes drilled 2" apart
plastic trash bag or sheet plastic
gravel
potting mix
flowers or herbs

At the Flower Show Exhibit

by Kate Swartz

It was with great pleasure that I manned our exhibit at the 1992 Flower Show. I relished the opportunity to brag about the projects in which I was involved. What an opportunity to solicit volunteers!!

The Philadelphia Green exhibit was a compilation of some of our best projects. The exhibit reflected the mission of PG with replications of a vegetable garden, the **Ile Ife Community Garden at 4th & Germantown, the 26th Street Gateway, the Ribbon of Gold at the Penitentiary, and the Azalea Garden** behind the Art Museum. A new and personal touch was added this year: volunteers were invited to be present at the exhibit to share their experiences and enthusiasm in working with our varied projects. It was most attractive to hear our "worker bees" personally represent their involvement in our projects. To complete the "new Look", a self-contained slide show was added. The slide machine flashed bright colorful slides on a small screen at 3-second intervals. The ultimate in visual aides!! The ultimate sales tool!!

I had approached this stint with my usual enthusiasm, and was anxiously ready to promote the City Gardens Contest, explain our greening projects, and enlist volunteers. Much to my surprise, the role that was required of me was not that of a benevolent barker but that of an interactive host. I was taken by the reminiscences: "I grew up there" and "We lived on that block 45 years." I listened instead of selling. Sitting or standing on the steps of the small stage of the exhibit was just as if I was sitting on a stoop in front of any rowhouse in any neighborhood in the City, sharing memories.

As the slides clicked, I gave brief descriptions of our many projects and was delighted to hear that my audience understood and appreciated our efforts. "But where does my $10.50 for the ticket go?" a first time visitor inquired. After I replied "I'll show you," I went on a tour de force of slides and explanations of "greening." When I looked around a crowd had gathered. To prevent myself from choking, I took them on an oral journey of the Flower Show: from Ed and Jon and their infamous taping of the floors, to the tractor trailer trucks of mulch, tough setups, the crowds, to takedown. "All in a few weeks!" they exclaimed. The crowd grew larger, and they told me I was the only speaking, non-plant attraction at any of the exhibits and to "please go on."

No one stopped me, so I played the crowd and inquired about their origins and what kind of horticultural enthusiasts they were. Many were from out of state, even a few out of country, with only one out of bounds ("No, you may not have my number.") But by far the best response was from those who had lived in the area of our Greene Countrie Townes and Ile Ife. Expatriates from near and far told of those communities, and prehistoric, prePG attempts, and gardening then. Ohs and ahs echoed back at me as I once again, to further challenge their disbelief, took them on the slide tour.

Then something wonderful happened. A woman said "My mother lived right <u>there</u>." The man beside her said "<u>My</u> mother lived right <u>there</u>." And what happened next was a charming mingling, and much to their surprise, they were all somehow connected. From police officers to grandmothers to schools to corner stores to inlaws to children, they somehow all related to a neighborhood somewhere near a project of ours.

After seeing the reflections in their faces, all I could say in response was "You must go and see it now!" It was not until much later that I realized that I had sent hundreds of people to the gardens to experience our programs for themselves, in person. Tourists every one, they enthusiastically agreed to do so and asked for directions.

What appealed to me most was the juxtaposition of the faces of these folks in the audience to those I had known in the neighborhoods. A merger was being created here, and I felt at once proud and touched. How beautiful to take them home again and at the same time experience our programs at work. A refreshing merger, nothing corporate, but rather a common denominator manifest in the meeting of values and a sense of preservation.

Cultivating Kids

My name is **Lydia Fonseca**, and I have been a member of a 4-H Club since July of 1987. I have been club president for the past two years. I am twelve now, and I wanted to tell how the 4-H Club has been a part of my growing up. First, our club is the **Michael Jordan Kids 4-H Club**. We are located at **1437 N. 7th Street**. We hold our meetings in the office of the **26th Mini Police Station**. I can remember back 5 years ago when we began with **Officer Rita O'Kedas**. I was 7 years old and that was my first experience in gardening. I and the other children learned how to grow plants from seeds. I learned about worm farming, and fertilizer, compost and hydroponics. We watch how plants grow big and healthy and very tasty. I learn things about plants and people and bugs that I will remember even as I get old.

In our garden we have many workshops and activities. I especially remember the awards that Officer Rita gives out to those who work very hard keeping the garden clean, those who grow well, and others who help teach us how to plant and give whatever help they can. Our garden is a fun place to be. We sometimes have our meetings outside in our garden. We have an Easter Egg Hunt, and a really great haunted Halloween Party, and a Spanish Fiesta. There's also a special place in our garden, it's a Memorial flower bed section where we remember and honor our deceased members. My father is remembered there.

This year **Mr. Eugene Reeves** from **Philadelphia Green** has taught us lots of new wonderful things. One of the first things he explained is that we don't have to wait til spring to grow anything we want. He showed how to make soda. We learned about a tool that the seeds fall off from the vibration of the button turning around. We also learned about food, plants and trees and vegetables that are native to each person's heritage.

Another great thing we do is fundraising. We earn money by having flea markets, cake sales and collecting dues and donations. With this money we pay our way on trips to Bartram's Garden, the Zoo and other cultural events. We went to the Harvest Show the last three years and this year we went to the Flower Show. It was so beautiful! We also enter the Junior Flower Show every year since I was a member and we won many blue, red, yellow, white and green ribbons.

There is much much more that we do but these are the good times I remember most. I like this club a lot, and it's very exciting and I learn new experiences every day.

Lydia Fonseca, President, Michael Jordan Kids 4-H Club

P.S. We are very proud to mention that we won two really great awards. The first award was a national award from the group called McGruff of the National Crime Prevention Council for outstanding efforts to reduce crime and improve community life, on May 26, 1988. The second award was from the National Gardening Association. It was a $600 grant award in January of 1992 giving us tools and other various items and equipment for gardening.

Pew Charitable Trusts provides the funding for Philadelphia Green's Youth Program.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

It is a warm spring afternoon. **Blanche Epps** waits for me on her front porch. The porch overlooks her 4 foot by 8 foot garden, a raised bed filled with spring bulbs, rock garden plants and dwarf shrubs. A clematis vine is ready to catch hold of the porch railing. Signs of Blanche's garden missionary work appear in her neighbors' front yards.

I've known Blanche well ever since she particpated in the 1982-83 PG Garden Intern Program. When I was physically out of commission three years ago, Blanche was a staunch supporter. She had spent time in a wheelchair. Blanche inspired me to grow strong enough to get out of mine and to join her in the garden. She knew firsthand how much gardening helps the healing.

In 1980, Blanche's doctor ordered her to garden. Actually, he told her to take on something that would challenge her. Having spent her early years on her grandmother's farm, young Blanche had called it quits on garden labors. A wiser Blanche chose gardening "as the way to cultivate my survival skills."

Blanche first contacted Penn State's Urban Gardening Program. Former Garden Advisor Wanda Larrier analyzed Blanche's small backyard. Because Blanche used a wheelchair, Wanda recommended a container garden on top of milk crates.

These days, though often "Arthur" (the infamous arthritis) gets ornery, Blanche keeps moving to get the better of him. For years she has commuted by bus to her community garden on the other side of West Philadlephia. Blanche even brings bags of dirt back on the bus for her container garden.

The way to Blanche's container garden is through the basement. She opens the heavy door for me and steps aside. Blanche's backyard, 9 feet by 12 feet, is crammed with plants in pots of different sizes and materials, even an old toilet. All are recycled. Most are plastic. Blanche explains, "Clay dries out too quickly."

Blanche is an avid plant collector. Her container garden includes azaleas, hydrangeas, tree peony, currant, strawberries, and columbine, to name a very few. Clematis and roses climb the fence. To one side, a water garden flourishes in a wooden barrel lined with plastic. A shade garden grows in the shelter of the back porch overhead.

We work together in her garden, planting gift plants from friends, cutting back the scented geranium. Blanche divides her cannas, and hands me several bulbous roots for my own garden. She smiles, her eyes bright, her hands coated with dirt. "This is my earthly retreat. I get the ideas that keep me going right here. The extra energy I need comes right from the dirt."

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

June 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 14, No. 6 July/Aug 1992

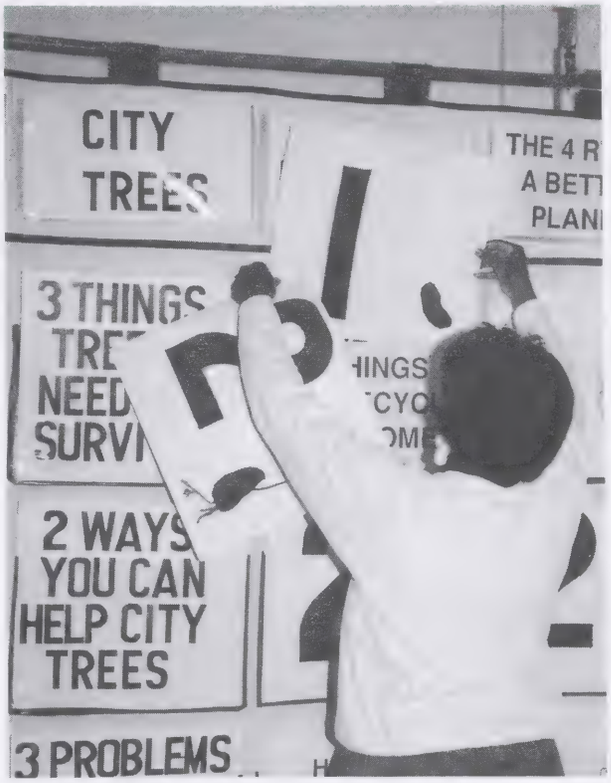
ENVIRONMENTAL JEOPARDY

Alex Trebeck, stand back! Students at the **Bache-Martin Science Fair at 22nd & Brown** recently competed to show off how much they knew about the environment. They raised their hands with lightning speed to answer questions about **City Trees**, **Trees & Us**, **Recycling**, and **Saving the Planet**. Six different classes took part over the course of the day, and participants were awarded small potted plants each time they answered correctly.

Environmental Jeopardy is a learning game based on the television program *Jeopardy*. The name emphasizes the fact that the environment is really in jeopardy unless we all start doing our part.

Hundreds of youth and adults all over the city have been challenged to play Environmental Jeopardy in the last few months. Participants compete by answering questions about the world around them and how it is affected by planting and protecting trees, and by recycling, reusing, remembering, and reducing wastes (the 4 R's to a better planet).

Different groups answered the questions in different ways. At the **Junior Flower Show**, a few of the classes knew all the answers immediately because they had been studying Recycling as a school project. Other kids had to use their imaginations. When asked "What animal does the most damage to trees?", some of the younger children envisioned elephants and giraffes crashing through the jungle breaking off tree limbs, and beavers cutting them down with their teeth to build dams across rivers. But it was the older children who knew the sobering truth — that the human animal destroys the most trees, whether they be growing in the rainforests or planted on Chestnut Street.



Students at Bache-Martin Science Fair answer questions about City Trees.

Up & Coming in July & August

Hydrant Permits

If your garden is using a fire hydrant for watering this summer, the City requires you to have a Hydrant Permit and renew it each year. The process of getting one takes about three weeks. To acquire yours, send the following to **Betsy Johnson** at Philadelphia Green, 325 Walnut St., Phila, PA 19106:

- $9 check or money order, payable to "City of Philadelphia"
- Exact address of the hydrant (such as "southeast corner of 4th & Chestnut" or "325 Chestnut")
- Name, address and phone of person who will be using the hydrant
- EXACT address of garden or garden block
  (such as "southeast corner of 4th & Chestnut" or "325 Chestnut")

Get Planting

Plant in July from seed:
beans
beets
Chinese cabbage
collards
corn
cucumbers
kale
lettuce
pansies

From transplants:
brussels sprouts
chrysanthemums

Wait for August:
endive
peas
spinach
radishes
garlic bulbs
carrots

Harvest Show Booklets Available

Do you have any prize-winning flowers or vegetables in your garden? To find out you can enter and how to do it, call for your own copy of the Harvest Show Schedule. Contact Flossie at 625-8280.

City Gardens Contest Dates

June 10	Deadline for Entries
July 2-20	Preliminary Judging
August 1-22	Final Judging
October 22	City Gardens Contest Awards Ceremony Port of History Museum

Other Dates to Remember

September 11, 10 am
Make an Herb Wreath
St. Simon's Church, 22nd & Reed
Construct a long-lasting sweet-smelling herb wreath with herbs harvested from your garden. Bring your dried herbs. All other construction materials will be provided. COST $1

Saturday, Sept 26th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm
1992 Community Gardeners' Harvest Party
Thursday, September 24th 5:30 - 8 pm
Friday, September 25th 7:30 - 10 am
Registration for Harvest Show
Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park

October 31, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Philadelphia Green Tree and Bulb Sale
325 Walnut Street
A flowering Spring begins in the Fall. A tree planting and care workshop will be conducted at the Sale.Watch for order forms in the mail.

Summer Trip

Pack a picnic lunch
and Join us on **Saturday, July 11th**
for a trip to the Amish Country of Lancaster County
for a workshop

"City Spaces in a Country Place"

in the home garden of Patrick Valentine,
professional gardener and owner, Valentine Horticultural Services.
Learn about raised beds, water gardens, small spaces and more.

Depart from PHS, 325 Walnut Street
at 9:30 am & return by 4:00 pm

Limited to only 20 Participants.
Cost $5.00

To register for this workshop, fill out the tear-off below and return by JULY 6th **to:**

Flossie Narducci
Philadelphia Green
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Garden Address _____

_____ Tickets at $5.00 each _____ Total enclosed

Clippings

Community News

A big thanks to over 100 volunteers from Philadelphia's neighborhoods and schools, suburbs, garden clubs, and Center City workforce who planted 5600 annuals at City Hall on May 21st. **Mayor Ed Rendell** planted geraniums to kick off "City Hall in Bloom," sponsored by **Provident National Bank**, the **Horticultural Society** and **Fairmount Park. Councilwoman Happy Fernandez** participated along with several of her supporters. Among the "super planters" were **Kate Loal's science classes** from **Huey School** in West Philadlephia who planted 4 flower beds in 2 hours!

Philadelphia Green is featured prominently in the May issue of the National Geographic. An article on current gardening in the U.S. talks about PG's role in community gardening. There is a beautiful two page color photograph of **Aspen Farms**. Also see the photo of the very colorful **Garden of Eatin'** with gardener **Alta Felton** at work. Another photograph shows **Mattie Robbins** and her niece **Dominique McConnell** with huge cabbages from their garden.

PHA Coordinator **Debbie Hall** and the **City Sanitation Department** are working together in a spirit of cooperation. Debbie arranged for sanitation employees to have their own plot at the **Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden**. Mr. Jackson, Department supervisor, loaned PG a "Bobcat" for heavy work at the garden.

The Junior Flower Show, held in mid-May was a huge success. Over 1200 entries covered every available space at the First Bank. Wednesday morning attendance peaked when 294 students descended on the show. Classes from **Sulzberger, Meredith, Henry Lea, John Welsh and Vare Middle Schools** prepared imaginative special exhibits to go along with their GrowLab projects. The Lunar Greenhouse computer program from **South Philadelphia High School** was again a popular stop. Special thanks go to **Penn State Urban Gardening** for their terrarium exhibit.

Delcina Wigfall, Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator had a hair-raising experience recently. She and several neighbors were working on a lotscape in the 2800 Block of W. Diamond Street. Everything was going smoothly. They received a soil delivery and were distributing it when a woman said, "What's that?" One gardener said, "A worm." Another said, "It's a sssnake!" With that, people scattered in all directions. They ran up the block, or stopped traffic, as they disappeared from the garden. When a child picked up the small snake and put it in a soda bottle with grass, the gardeners returned and work went on.

Center City Green volunteer **Frank Stefano** is branching out from the Tree Survey. Frank hosted the "Tree Care" slide show at the Spring Garden Sale. Now he is ready to take it on the road.

Philadelphia Green donated a tree in memory of a Center City woman who was tragically killed when she wandered into traffic. The woman, a resident of **Bethesda Spruce Street** was formerly homeless and suffered from mental illness. PG staffer **Tom Mishler** planted the tree and led a ceremony for the woman's friends.

Staff Stuff

We welcome **Tom Mishler**, PG's new community Landscape Architect who works in Site Development. He will be providing design assistance for coordinators and on the Cecil B. Moore project. Tom bicycles to work - 4 miles every day.

Mindy Maslin has completed a composting course given by Urban Gardening and is now a "Master Composter."

"Celebrate Trees"
Appearing Next in the
PHS Exhibit Hall
August 3 - September 4, 1992
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA
Second Showing at the Harvest Show
September 25-27, 1992

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

For **Elizabeth Hicks**, gardening is both a physical and spiritual experience. "My garden means health, peace of mind, and a place to meditate. We all come from Mother Earth. We must go back to her to get our strength and find answers to our questions."

As a child, Ms. Hicks lived on a farm on Oklahoma. Her father was a "farmer from his heart." The family's neighbors were native Americans. Together, they taught young Elizabeth how to work in harmony with nature. She has carried on this tradition throughout her 76 years.

Ms. Hicks uses no chemicals to control pests in her North Philadelphia garden. She makes her own spray mixtures. For an all-around bug control, Ms. Hicks soaks peeled garlic in water for 24 hours. She adds tobacco juice to create a concentrate that she later mixes with water. Ms. Hicks also works garlic leaves into the soil when she's planting all members of the cabbage family. They seem to love the treatment.

Unlike many gardeners, Ms. Hicks appreciates weeds. She learned long ago which are beneficial wild herbs. "Always allow them in the garden. Just don't let them take over." In mid-May, I shared a tasty lunch in Ms. Hick's kitchen. Her cooking style is healthy and simple. My favorite dish was Dandelion Steak, the main ingredient being buds of the familiar wild one. Ms. Hicks also served lettuce salad that contained two other wild herbs, watercress and plantain. She encouraged me to cook up a spring tonic made from leaves of lambs quarters, chickweed, plantain and dandelion found in my own garden. I cooked and ate the greens that very night. Did I feel healthy!

Several days after our lunch, Ms. Hicks prepared her herb garden for the season. The herb garden is a long, narrow plot, with flowers interplanted. She cleared the area of most of the weeds, leaving a few wild herbs for future use. Growing beside them are hyssop, chives, horehound, oregano, thyme, and dill. Ms. Hicks always includes mullein in her garden. "If you take one of the velvety leaves and put it in your shoe for a whole day, all the toxins will be drawn from your body." Ms. Hicks also cultivates marigolds. Not only do they add color to the garden, but Ms. Hicks makes a good, occasional tonic from the seeds. "Make a cup of tea, taking one swallow of the tea at a time throughout the day. Only take once every three or four months, when you feel all clogged up." It's great for the plumbing.

Ms. Hicks is dedicated to the concept of gardening for a healthy mind and body. To her, gardening is like "going to a fountain, to refill myself like a pitcher of satisfaction."

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

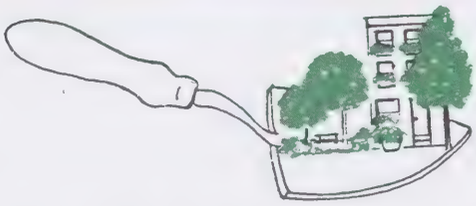
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

July/August 1992



PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 14, No. 7. September 1992

STRAWBERRY MANSION News

Mayor Ed Rendell and **Councilman John Street**, along with **Daryl Clark** of John Street's office recently toured gardens and garden blocks of **Strawberry Mansion.** Their purpose was to witness the impact greening has made in the neighborhood, and to address concerns the communnity had about vacant lots, illegal dumping and poor lighting.

Community leaders **Marva Harris** of the NAC Office; **Lenore Jackson**, 2700 W. French; **Evelyn Forbes**, 2100 N. Newkirk; **Mrs. Dupree**, 2800 W. Diamond. **Dorothy Byrd, Mary Alexander, Marian Thompson** and **Ethel Williams** also toured.

First stop: **Florie and John Dotson**'s garden at 3224 W. Turner St. On to 3200 W. Oxford St., **Rosalie Young**; and Tanner Triangle, **Charlotte Lewis.** Visiters then moved on to 2020 Etting St., **Ellen Johnson, Georgia Taliaferro** and **Florence Jones**; 2801-03W. Diamond St., **William Dixon, Gilbert Tyree** and **Bertrene Caldwell**; 2727-29 W. Sedgley St., **Alan Taylor** and **Sam Green**; 2400 block N. Marston St., **Peggy Williams, Lorraine Harris, Dorothy Johnson** and neighbors; 2338-40 N. 29th St., **Jim Norris** and **Earlene Green;** 2342-44 N. 29th St., **Frank Davis;** 3000 W. Page St., **Mary Miller;** and 1900 N. 30th St., **Mary James**.

Councilman Street discussed the need for the City to fence in lots after they have been cleared of debris, even if they are not going to be gardened immediately.

The visiting dignitaries were very impressed with the cleaning and greening efforts of the community, especially when they found out that neighbors surrounding the sites had collected their own money to install lights in the garden at **2338-40 N. 29th**, and both lights and play equipment at the children's garden, **2342-44 N. 29th.**

Come join neighbors, City officials and
the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on
September 18 at 1:30 pm at **Tanner Triangle**,
Diamond Street & Sedgley Avenue, in dedicating the
Strawberry Mansion Green Countrie Towne.
Refreshments will be served.

On September 19
the community will continue the celebration with
People's Day.
Past community members will be honored
at the garden at
3200 W. Cecil B. Moore Ave.
9:00 am to 10:00 am.

Children's activities will be held in **Fairmount Park**
between **33rd& Cecil B. Moore** and
33rd & Diamond Street.
The People's Day celebration will continue at Tanner Triangle.

Everyone is invited to share in congratulating
the community on its achievements!

Join us at the 1992 Community Gardeners' Harvest Party!!!

Date: Saturday, Sept 26th
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Place: Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park

You can order five free tickets for your community group in advance. Call Flossie at 625-8280to order. Additional tickets are available at the Registration Tables when you make an entry at the Harvest Show.

Summer Workshop Series

Arranging Flowers From Your Garden

Join us and learn how to select, cut and condition flowers & foliage grown in your garden .Discover cheap or free ideas for containers. After attending this workshop you will be able to make a prize-winning arrangement for the Harvest Show.

Although we will provide most of the materials, we ask that you bring whatever flowers, foliage or grasses you can from your own garden to share.

For more information andto register, call Sally at 625-8280.

Beginners Class Thursday, August 20
10:00 - noon
Garden of Eatin'
25th & Dickinson

Advanced Class Tuesday, August 25
Garden of Gethsemane
Pearl & Conestoga
(near 55st & Vine)

Those who attend the Beginners Class are also welcome to come to the Advanced Class.

Making an Herb Wreath

Construct a long-lasting, sweet-smelling herb wreath with herbs harvested from your garden. Bring your dried herbs. All other construction materials will be provided. To register, call Flossie at 625-8280

Herb Wreaths Friday, September 11
10:00 - noon
St. Simon's Church
22nd & Reed
Cost is $1

Canning & Freezing the Safe Way

Food prices keep going up & up, but there are ways to save money through gardening and preserving. Learn how to "put up" extra tomatoes, greens, soups and jellies for only pennies a quart. Jars and lids will be provided so you can go home and practice.

For more information or to register, call Sally at 625-8280.

Canning & Freezing Thursday, September 3rd
9:30 - 12:30
St. Simon's Church
22nd & Reed
Cost is $1

Getting Ready for the Harvest Show

Join us for a **Harvest Show How-To** and get the jump on all your friends!! Learn how to harvest your fruits, flowers, vegetables and herbs; how to select blue ribbon specimens; how to condition and transport the best of your garden to the show; and the right way to fill out entry tags. **Please bring vegetables and flowers with youfor practice.**

For more informationo rto register, call Flossie at 625-8280.

Harvest How-To Tuesday, September 15
9:30 - 12:30
1510-22 N. 58th St.
No Cost

Getting Ready For the Harvest Show

When your Harvest Show Booklet arrives:

- Read it carefully.
- Look over your plants and go through the classes in the schedule. There is at least one class in this show for everyone!
- Complete and mail in the post card in the center of your booklet so that entry cards can be mailed to you. Entering ahead of time will put you in the express lane at registration, and will help us enormously. However, you can make entries without pre-registering by bringing them in during Registration (Thursday 5-8 PM and Friday 7:30-10:00 AM.)
- Fill out your entry cards ahead of time and use only indelible ink or a dark pencil, since tags often get wet. Address labels are great.

1992 HARVEST SHOW

September 26th and 27th

Harvest of Champions

Produced by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Vegetables

- **Gather them carefully.** Water the day before picking. Loosen the ground around root crops before picking. Bring warm water to the garden to place stems of leafy vegetables in immediately after picking. Pick tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and squash with about 1/2 inch of stem. Leave beans with short stems. Cut beet and carrot tops to 2" long. Check judging rules before picking to check on any special way a particular vegetable is to be shown.
- **Gather enough to get a good choice.** Harvest more than the number required to exhibit. For example, since 10 identical beans are required, bring 12 or 15 to be in the safe side.
- **Choose vegetables of right size, number and quality.** Uniform vegetables are best, as alike as possible in size, shape and color. The best ones to choose are of market quality (what you see in the supermarket), of edible quality, and free from blemishes. Remember that oversized veggies are not of best quality and are immediately eliminated from competition, but can be exhibited as "Harvest Heroes." (see page 15 of booklet.)
- **Wash vegetables, but don't scrub off the skin**. Use water and your hands to clean vegetables, not stiff brushes. Don't leave them soaking in water after washing. Add salt or vinegar to kill bugs and worms. Watch out for nicks by nails on tender-skinned vegetables. Check the undersides of leaves of collards and other greens for stubborn bugs like aphids and eliminate these with soapy water and a cotton swab.
- **Keep them cool and crisp until ready to display.** Place leafy items in a plastic bag with a towel to soak up extra moisture. Wipe the bottom of lettuce with a little lemon juice or vinegar to prevent discoloration. Don't let eggplants, peppers, tomatoes or squash sit on bare racks as they will bruise. The less time between picking and displaying them the better.

Flowers

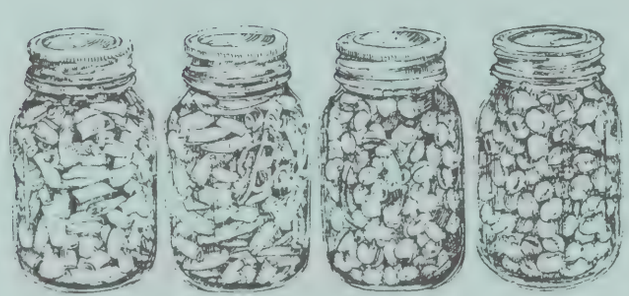
- **Insure having flowers to show.** As much ahead as possible, cut off all faded blooms and multiple buds for larger, better flowers.

- **Gather carefully.** Cut the flowers either the evening before or early that morning, using a sharp knife. Cut the stems long and on a slant to permit greater water absorption. Make sure to gather enough to make a good choice. When finished cutting, put flowers in warm water in a cool place.

- **Get the right number, size and quality of flowers.** Flowers should be opened but not faded, have long stems, clean foliage, be similar in size and color, and be free from blemishes.

- **Make sure flowers are secure in container.** Set arrangement so best side is facing forward. Judges will measure entries, so make sure your entries are the size stated in the rule book. Be sure containers are filled with cool water to insure fresh blooms. Provide containers for all arrangements.

- **Label carefully.** Make sure to fully complete a tag for each entry. Remember — all entries are to be made in the name of the garden. Only one entry per class for each garden. Be sure to look in the schedule for any special rules for each class before entering. Take care that all entries remain as fresh as possible.



Preserved Products

- All preserved products will be made in the name of the individual. Your entry tags should also include the block's or garden's name and number for sweepstakes totals.

- All canned products must be heat sealed in a hot water bath or pressure canner. Paraffin sealing is not acceptable. Rings must be on each jar.

- Entries consist of three of one kind, unless labeled a collection. Collections must be at least three different kinds, maximum eight jars.

- Containers must be uniform, except for vinegars, wines and liqueurs.

- For that special sparkle, clean and polish jars with vinegar and water and a soft cloth.

Container Grown Plants

Far ahead of time

- **Re-pot plants if necessary.** Be sure the pot is compatible with the plant, and that the right number of plants are in the container.

- **Clean your pots.** Pots that are dirty should be soaked in a solution of bleach and water, then scrubbed with a "scrubby" or other abrasive material.

- **Grooming a plant takes time**; it can't be left till the last minute. Go over plants carefully.

A week before the show

- **Foliage must be cleaned.** For broad-leafed plants, use cottonballs and water. *Do not use oil.*

- **Be sure fruits of plants are clean**.

- **Do not mist a flowering plant.** Misting will spot the blooms.

- **Remove dead or blemished material.** There should be no evidence of disease or sprays.

- **Fill out your entry cards** and use only indelible ink or a dark pencil, since tags often get wet. Address labels are great.

- **Improve appearance of soil surface** by adding freshly sifted soil to the surface. Keep soil well below pot top so it doesn't wash out when watered.

  Plastic pots may be used, but most judges prefer standard clay pots. Containers should be the correct size, appropriate and in proportion to the plant.

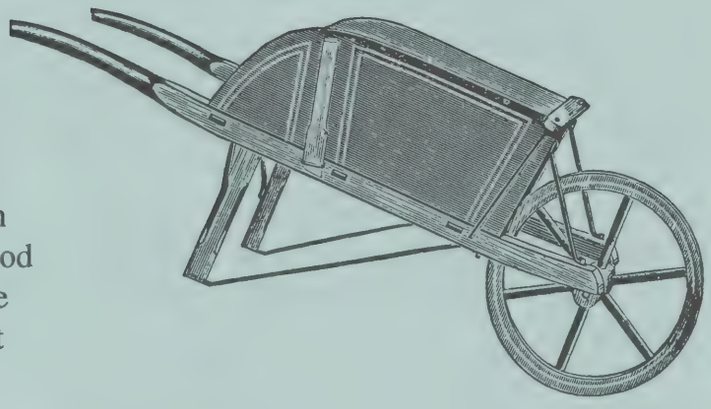
- **Assemble a kit for entering.** It should include a waterproof pen, completed entry cards, and grooming materials like a watering can, extra soil, paper towels, clippers, scissors, small paint brush for small cleaning jobs, tweezers, etc. **The passer** will point out any grooming that still needs to be done to bring the plant up to show quality, but only YOU may touch up or groom your plant before it is passed.

- **Mark everything that goes to the Show** with your name on the bottom of pot, basket, etc. using address labels or indelible pen.

Harvest Show Dates

September 24	Thursday	5:30-8	**Registration** for the Harvest Show
September 25	Friday	7:30-10 AM	**Registration** for Harvest Show
September 26	Saturday	10-5	**Harvest Show**
		12-4	Childrens' Tent open Join the fun with your children
		6-8	**HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 27	Sunday	10-5	**Harvest Show**
		12- 4	Childrens' Tent open Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!

Getting Your Entry to the Show



- **Stake container plants** for extra support
- **Cut holes** in overturned cartons to fit pots.
- **A rod attached to the clothes-hanging fixture** in the car will support hanging baskets. Secure the rod or pole by sticking it between the window and the top of the car door; roll the window up as far as it will go to prevent slipping. To keep plant from swinging, attach it to a brick or cinderblock below the seat.
- **A bucket with a weight in the bottom** and stuffed with newspaper will also support a hanging basket during transport.
- **A box stuffed with newspaper** is also ideal for moving canned goods
- **When bringing vegetables or fruit** for entry, pack each set of entries (such as 3 tomatoes plus extras) in a separate bag with their completed entry tag. Too much time spent sorting entries at the Show could mean missed deadlines.
- **Transport flowers in water** if possible to prevent wilting. Avoid spills by filling jars only half way and standing them up in a box or bucket packed loosely with newspaper. Don't leave them sitting in the car in the sun while you unload other things.
- **Put an old rug or blanket** down in the car under entries. It helps prevent sliding and keeps the car clean.
- **Seat belts can be helpful** in supporting plants or cartons while transporting them.
- If you have large or heavy entries, or a large number of entries, a **dolly or wagon** of your own is a great help in moving your stuff to and from the car, especially for Sunday evening removal from the Show.

At the Show

- **Arrive early!!!** Entering exhibits Takes time!
- **Find a work table.**
- **Bring plants in and unpack carefully.** Save wrappings and remove all evidence of travel, such as stakes, wire damage to foliage, etc. Damaged foliage may be trimmed but must look natural.
- Bring exhibit to the **appropriate area** for passing.
- **Be sure the entry card** is with your exhibit.
- **Don't leave the exhibit area** until your plant is passed.
- **Be sure your plant is watered**, but be careful it's not so wet that it spoils the staging.

Clippings

Community News

Recycling makes sense, and friends, too. When long-time PG supporter, **Jean Bodine** heard that the Three Bears Park in Center City was going to be renovated, she contacted PG to suggest that some group might benefit from the old playground equipment. Coordinator **Eileen Gallagher** jumped at the opportunity. Eileen and Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** had been working on a sitting garden design at **Hutchinson Place**, a treatment center for addicted women and their babies in North Philadelphia. Hutchinson Place's **Rich Shandler** okayed the equipment which was delivered right to the site. Lots of kids are happier today thanks to this special gift.

Mindy Maslin, Tree Education Specialist, had a new idea this summer for training youth to care for trees. She trained community leaders, who then organized local Youth Tree Corps. Eighteen people from 10 different organizations received hands-on instructions cultivating and mulching tree pits at 4th & Chestnut Streets in addition to attending classroom sessions. **Lisa Saphire** of the **Academy of Natural Sciences** hosted a week-long tree program with summer campers. **Teacher Sam Williams** from **South Philadelphia High School** worked with his group at the school's tree farm. For the second summer **Hersch Recreation Center** at 5th & Allegheny sponsored a Youth Tree Corps. **Dennis Donahue** led the "Sacks Cleaning Crew" at Jefferson Park.

The Youth Tree Corps of **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** finished their year with an outing at Bartram Gardens. Bartram Director **Martha Wolf** was very pleased with the results. About 25 volunteers cleaned the grounds and cared for the historic Franklinia trees. Special thanks to **Joel Cohen** for organizing the activity.

Coordinator **Eileen Gallagher** has been working on a unique project with about 15 deaf teenagers who are first-time gardeners. **The Society for Helping, Inc.** sponsored a summer program so the students could brush up on school skills. They approached PG about gardening nearby. In only six weeks (working one day a week), this group has turned a church yard into a 40 foot perennial garden. The teenagers have worked with enthusiasm and dedication. Several PG staffers assisted their efforts.

Hats off to **Earl Engles** and **Michael Hogan** for teaming up Tacony's **"Grey Wolves"** (seniors' organization) and the **Disston Youth Club** to plant Philadelphia's first neighborhood-run community tree nursery. The **Disston Recreation Center** is now home to several hundred young saplings and several species of evergreens which will be replanted in the future along Tacony's streets and in public recreation areas.

Neighborhood Gardens Association is proud to announce the winners in its annual "First Ripened Tomato on the Vine" contest. **Charlotte Birch** of Seymour Street in Lower West Germantown was the first prize winner. The second prize winner was **Marian Luongo** who gardens in the Emma's Court community garden at 1406-14 N. Hancock Street. A close competitor, **Seedy Acres Garden**, lost their chance when a dog ate their prize tomato.

Staff Stuff

Jose Garcia, the new Tree Program Intern, is a much-needed addition to the staff. The position is funded by a grant from the **U.S. Forest Service**.

Congratulations to **Tom Mishler** and his wife **Mercedes** on the birth of their daughter, **Olivia**.

Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator **Winfred Young** made his tv debut on a Channel 12 program about **Lily Yeh** and the **Village of Arts and Humanities**. Winfred has worked closely with Lily and neighbors to develop the Ile Ife garden.

Gene Reeves, Youth Education Specialist, was very surprised when he received recognition for his work with the **Michael Jordan 4-H Club** on Channel 10 News at 6:00. **Diane Allen** put together a news short spotlighting the energetic young gardeners after reading a letter from Club president **Lydia Fonseca** in our June newsletter.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Gardening Tips From All Over

It's said that cleanliness is next to Godliness. But in the garden at season's end, it's usually next to impossible. Let's face it. We've been busy with harvesting, canning and freezing the fruits of our labor. We don't have time for weeding the crabgrass carpet or pulling the bolted spinach. Sure, neatness counts. But we do have our priorities.

Yet while we rush to put up one more bushel of tomatoes, we must keep next season's harvest in mind, because what we do this fall to to put the garden to rest can change its health and vitality next year.

Planning

The first step requires pencil and paper. Before you pull up plants, sketch your garden layout and indicate what grew where. This record will aid in crop rotation next season, which helps you avoid recurring problems. Rotation means planting crops of the same family in different spots each year. This helps prevent the buildup of specific diseases or insects from building up year after year in the soil. It's best if you can avoid a spot for three seasons at least.

Next, note what varieties you grew, how well they did, and anything you'd change about the way you grew them.

Also record any disease or insect problems you had, and include what chemical and non-chemical controls you used. Were they effective? What would you do differently?

Now roll up your sleeves — it's time to get to work.

Cleanup

To compost or not to compost, that is the question. Should weeds and plants go into the compost heap? Weeds and their seeds have incredible staying power. They can survive heat, cold, drought, chemicals and time, and they may harbor insects. So as tempting as it is, don't compost weeds that have gone to seed. Bag them up with the trash to be safe.

Now pull up any garden plants that show signs of disease and insect problems. Put them out with the trash too.

The remaining plants should be shredded or chopped into small pieces and added to the compost pile. In the pile, layers of shredded plants should be covered with several inches of soil. Composting is an art or science of its own and many sources explain different methods. Pick a style that suits your needs.

Soil Care

Turn the garden, leaving it rough, not fine and smooth like in the spring before planting. Nature's freezing and thawing will break up the clumps, but best of all, the rough surface reduces erosion from wind and water. Turning buries organic matter where soil microbes can dine on it, breaking it down to better feed next year's plants.

You can let the soil stand bare all winter if you choose, and that may reduce some overwintering insects and disease. But some of us can't stand seeing soil naked and vulnerable. Then you may try covering the garden with fallen tree leaves you have gathered, especially good if shredded with a lawn mower. Or till them in to improve the soil.

Cover Crops

Another alternative to bare soil is planting a cover crop. These plants hold soil in place, improve the soil, hold moisture in the soil, ease the conscience, and are easily tilled in next spring. Crops like annual rye, winter rye, or winter wheat sprout quickly in the fall and serve as good covers until spring cultivation.

So remember — any time spent cleaning up the garden this fall after a long summer is as good as money in the bank, making a healthier garden next year and a clearer conscience this winter.

Reprinted from the Chicago Botanic Garden's ***Green Connection****, October 1989. For more information about composting and cover crops, contact Penn State's Community Composting Education Program, 560-4163.*

Branching Out

Fall is TREEmendous! It's cool, colorful and a great time for planting many deciduous trees. Fall's warm soil welcomes new trees and encourages root growth. Cooler, shorter days decrease transpiration, or water loss, through leaves, making trees less susceptible to transplanting shock.

In temperate climates such as ours, the best time to transplant is after leaves turn color or drop. Trees enter a seasonal dormant stage at this point and are least likely to suffer from shock. Of course, no one wants to be awakened from a gentle slumber by frostbitten toes - or in this case roots. Take care to protect the tree's roots from being exposed to the cold for an extended period of time by mulching the tree after planting.

Fall planting is not appropriate for all trees. The following respond better to spring plantings:

Red Maple	Acer rubrum & varieties
Birch	Betula varieties
Hornbeam	Carpinus varieties
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida & varieties
Hawthorn	Crategus varieties
Silverbell	Halesia
Golden Rain Tree	Koelreuteria
Sweetgum	Liquidambar
Tulip Tree	Liriodendron tulipifera
London Planetree	Platanus acerifolia
Cherry	Prunus — all stone fruits
Pears	Pyrus — all pears
Oaks	Quercus — all oaks
Weeping Willow	Salix — weeping varieties
Japanese Snowbell	Styrax japonica
Silver Linden	Tilia tomentosa
Zelkova	Zelkova varieties

Planting trees is an important step toward improving the health of our local community as well as our planet. Trees give off oxygen and offset global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide. They help to save energy by sheltering our homes from hot sun and from winter winds. They provide homes for birds and animals, and prevent erosion. In short, trees are friends that we cannot live without.

For tree-mendous choices of trees appropriate for fall planting, join Philadelphia Green at our **Tree & Bulb Sale** on October 31st. Look for your pre-order sheet in the mail.

For more information about trees, don't miss **"Celebrate Trees"**, a traveling PHS Tree Exhibit at the Harvest Show, September 26th & 27th.

Mindy Maslin is Tree Education Specialist. The Tree Program is funded through a grant from the William Penn Foundation

A flowery Spring begins in the Fall

PHILADELPHIA GREEN
has branched out in new directions.
Join us for our Fall

Tree and Bulb Sale

DATE: Saturday, October 31, 1992

LOCATION: PHS
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19106

WORKSHOP: Tree planting and care workshop at the sale

All items will be available at wholesale prices.
Watch for order forms in September.

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and bulbs.

What's Coming Up in September

August 20	Thurs	10 AM - noon	**Flower Arranging for Beginners** 25th & Dickinson
August 25	Tues	10 AM - noon	**Advanced Flower Arranging** Pearl & Conestoga (near 55th & Vine)
September 3	Thurs.	9:30-12:30	**Canning & Freezing Safely** St. Simon's Church 22nd & Reed Admission $1
September 11	Fri..	9:30-noon	**Making Dried Herb Wreaths** St. Simon's Church 22nd & Reed Admission $1
September 15	Tues.	9:30-11:30 AM	**Getting Ready for the Harvest Show** 1510-22 N. 58th St.
September 18	Fri..	1:30 PM	**Strawberry Mansion Dedication Ceremonies** Tanner Triangle Diamond Street & Sedgley Avenue
September 19	Sat.	9-10 AM	**Community Member Dedication** 3200 W. Cecil B. Moore Avenue
		all day	**Strawberry Mansion PEOPLE'S DAY Celebration** Tanner Triangle Diamond Street & Sedgley Avenue **Children's activities** Fairmount Park 33rd Street between Cecil B. Moore and Diamond
September 24	Thurs.	5:30-8 PM	**Registration** for Harvest Show
September 25	Fri.	7:30-10 AM	**Registration** for Harvest Show
September 26	Sat.	10 AM -5 PM 12-4 PM 6-8 PM	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open Join the fun with your children **HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 27	Sun.	10 AM - 5 PM 12- 4 PM	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!
October 2-5	Fri thru Mon		**American Community Gardening Association Conference** GROWING TOGETHER: Partnerships for Comminity Revitalization Denver, CO For more information, call Sally or Janet at 625-8280

FROM SEED OR BULBS	DIVIDE	BRING IN
garlic	daylilies	houseplants
lettuce	iris	herbs for overwintering
tulips, daffodils & narcissus	peonies	cuttings of geraniums,
radishes	phlox	begonias, & impatiens

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The summer heat almost melted the streets the day I visited **Pearl Romans**. In approximately 15 square feet, Pearl has created a lush, green garden oasis, with exclamation points of color. As we cooled out in her tiny back garden, Pearl recounted the origin of the plants growing there. The American Holly was a gift from her sister-in-law. A friend with a front yard full of prickly pear cactus shared some with Pearl. "I tell my friends, don't throw away any plant. You give it to Pearl."

Mysteriously, a cherry tree sprouted more than 20 years ago. Family legend blames her son's pit spittin, aim. In any event, the Romans enjoyed the shade, flowers and fruit for two decades. When the tree died, Pearl's husband, **Francis**, pruned off all the branches. A vigorous ruffled English Ivy grew up the trunk that remained. Liking the effect of this ivy-covered totem, Pearl added brackets for hanging baskets that provide an attractive variety of colors and textures.

Many shrubs including three different hollies, pyracantha, aucuba and azaleas occupy this small space. Pearl carefully prunes them back to keep everything in good order. Every summer, she roots cuttings of aucuba and donates them to the flea market her church sponsors. Pearl figures that there are hundreds of her aucuba across the city.

At one point, I cast an admiring eye toward her neighbor's garden, figuring Pearl had an influence there. The concrete backyard was jammed with potted plants and hanging baskets. "That's mine, too. My neighbor invited me to garden there. He likes to pretend to his friends that he has a green thumb, too."

Pearl led me out the back gate to her compost pile at the edge of a huge vacant lot. The Romans and a few of their neighbors work hard to keep the area clean. "It took a long time to train people not to trash, but now they're pretty good at it." As if to inspire that communal caring spirit, Pearl's garden has jumped the back wall. Tomatoes, cucumbers, ribbon grass, dusty miller and lilyturf flourish on a thin layer of soil surrounding the wire compost bin.

Pearl first went public with her garden in 1979 when a friend entered her in the **City Gardens Contest**. She's been involved with the contest ever since as contestant, judge and committee member. Pearl appreciates the advice and support the judges have offered. She recognizes that through the contest, people are acknowledged for their garden creativity. Pearl fondly remembers one older woman who gardened in waist high beds, showing that "no matter what your circumstances, you can always get your hands in the dirt."

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

September 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 14, No.8. October 1992

More Gardens Saved by NGA

by Claire Power

Thanks to **The Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA)**, two Point Breeze gardens are one step away from being permanently preserved as community gardens. **The Concert Garden** at **21st & Ellsworth** and the **New Yorker Garden** at **22nd & Ellsworth** await only approval by City Council before they can be transferred to NGA. Once NGA takes ownership, they will sign a gardening agreement with the gardeners, who will continue to do what they do best -- GARDEN! -- without fear of the property being sold out from under them.

Four more gardens have passed the first hurdle in the City transfer process. **1315 S. 22nd St, David Pierce; Titan Terrace, Point Breeze Federation; 1426-30 S. Taylor St., Alta Felton**; and **1306-08 S. 24th St., Helen Roberts** were approved by the City's Vacant Property Review Committee in August for transfer to NGA, who hopefully will own them by the end of the year.

Outside Point Breeze, **NGA** now owns a piece of the garden at **1500 Greys Ferry Ave**. This garden was threatened with sale earlier this year, and the gardeners asked **NGA** to help them save it. Coordinator **Mattie Robbins** cheerfully accompanied **NGA** Director **Claire Power** to witness the signing of the deed and renewed an old friendship with the former owner, who donated the property.

Philadelphia Green, along with **Penn State's Urban Gardening Program** and several City agencies created **NGA** in 1986. It is a non-profit corporation whose aim is to preserve community gardens as permanent community assets. **NGA** works primarily in low to moderate income neighborhoods of Philadelphia to ensure that residents will enjoy their gardens for many years to come.

If you would like to make sure your garden will not be sold, call **NGA** at 625-8264.

Good Intentions

by Gordon Henderson

The small community garden at **23rd & South** has to withstand a lot more than daily car and pedestrian traffic to maintain its oasis-like beauty. Affectionately known as "**Catherine Thorn**" for the 100-year-old horse trough/fountain (dedicated to her by the SPCA) which is its centerpiece, this garden is at the heart of the annual "Odunde" Festival which brings 150,000 people to this small neighborhood each spring.

While the garden's neighborhood caretakers usually repair the wear and tear to its outermost plant material and fences afterward, they were surprised to discover that a well-intentioned area merchant had

(continued next page)

Fall-planted tulips, narcissus and crocus bring the first burst of color to the hibernating landscape. See inside for details about ordering bulbs from Philadelphia Green's ***Tree & Bulb Sale***

Good Intentions

(*continued from front page*)

already assigned his workers the task of cleaning. In their zeal to please the boss, however, they uprooted four-year-old stands of lambs ear, columbine and yucca flowers. Fortunately, plenty of annuals were supplied in time for this year's judging by **"Julia"** who operates a popular flower and plant shop on 23rd St. above South.

The moral of the story, of course, is to cultivate one's garden no matter what!

Coming Up in October

Gardener's Guide Available

By popular request, Philadelphia Green has put together the **Philadelphia Green Gardener's Guide**, a month-by-month gardening calendar with corresponding Educational Handouts.

This reference manual is a collection of already existing handouts developed by PG and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, along with contributions from greening programs nationwide. The information is organized in a loose-leaf binder, and is divided into four catagories: **GARDENING, ORGANIZING, YOUTH & CRAFTS**, and **RESOURCES**. As gardening practices change and new handouts are developed, we will provide additional sheets to be inserted in the guide.

For information on how you can receive your copy, call Eve Miller at 625-8280.

Forcing Bulbs Indoors

Get ready to beat the winter doldrums by growing your own flowers indoors. Learn how to force daffodils into bloom over the winter with a minimum of muss or fuss.

Philadelphia Green Office
325 Chestnut St. 8th floor
Tuesday, October 13
6:30-8 PM

Please call Sally at 625-8280 to register.

What to Do in October

Plant spring-flowering bulbs
Clean up garden
Lift tender bulbs & store
Prepare beds for spring-- add organic matter
Plant garlic cloves
Plant a cover crop
Gather green tomatoes and wrap in newspaper
Bring in houseplants
Place your order for the Tree & Bulb Sale
Carve a pumpkin from the garden
Collect leaves and seedheads to make a mobile
Save vines to make a wreath

Renovating a Perennial Garden

Has your perennial flower bed gotten ahead of you? What things can you do this fall to make next spring's garden the best ever? Come for some hands-on experience in pruning, planting and dividing perennials, and take home some plant material for your own garden.

Seedy Acres Garden
918-22 N. Leithgow St.
10 AM - noon
Tuesday, October 20th

Call Sally at 625-8280 for directions and to register for your plant material.

Clippings

Community News

"It's better in **Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne."** Your eyes are not fooling you. That is a tropical scene in the islands you see on the **2400 N. Block Marston Street**. The mural recently completed by **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network** adds a very peaceful feeling to the surrounding garden. Strawberry Mansion residents **Martha Cureton, Lorraine Harris and Peggy Williams** obtained travel brochures to help make the mural a reality.

The **Johnson Homes** Vegetable Garden has come into its own this year. The gardeners' efforts and the work of PHA Coordinator **Debbie Hall** were highlighted in PHS President **Jane Pepper's** column "On Gardening" in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Debbie is ably helped by Assistant Coordinator **Jim Holahan**. Jane also mentioned **Gertrude Dyer** who is the garden's treasurer as well as a gardener. **Fanny Blair** was recognized for her constant helpful presence and all her hard work. She grows excellent vegetables in her plot, weeds others' plots and even plants flowers in empty spaces.

Marona Maiers and neighbors of the **2600 Block N. Bancroft** Street hosted the third **Susquehanna GCT** Garden Club meeting. **Marjorie Thornton**, 2300 Block Lambert, **Mary Atkerson,** 1600 Block Edgely and **Alice Robinson,** 2100 Block N. 19th, attended along with PG staffers **Jeff Myers and Janet Carter**. Gardeners talked about the benefits of perennials in a flower garden and everyone received some to try at their site.

Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** is collaborating with senior citizens of the **Guild House East** and **West** to create a landscape master plan. **James Wilcox,** Executive Director and manager of the two properties, contacted PG to initiate this long term process. Tom has been assisted by **Patricia Schrieber**, Education Manager and **Michael Groman**, Site Development Manager in the planning with residents at design meetings.

The **Tacony Civic Association** Replanting Project for Cottman Avenue has been funded by the **U.S. Forest Service's** " America the Beautiful Program." The Association is also sponsoring a street tree survey and numerous educational workshops in their community-wide effort to plant and care for their neighborhood trees.

The **18th & Glenwood Garden** is on track with the addition of an authentic caboose at the rear of the site. City L & I Commissioner **Bennet Levin** donated the full-scale caboose and had it mounted on a real track in gravel. The **Anti-Graffiti Network** painted it in vivid colors. Train commuters will see this landmark which strongly identifies the garden. The Commisioner, a collector of real trains, got the idea during his regular commute past the garden. Plans call for electric lights in the caboose so gardeners can meet inside.

Staff Stuff

The L & I Lotscape Team (Coordinator **Mark Teller,** Assistant Coordinators **Melinda Johnson,** and **Kalyan Bhagratty**) would like to thank all those who called and wrote letters in support of the continuation of the **Philadelphia Clean & Green Program**. PG has received word that the funding will continue next year.

Claire Power has been appointed Acting Executive Director of the **Neighborhood Gardens Association**, which shares offices with Philadelphia Green. Former Director **Bruce Wiggins** has moved to Idaho, where wife Terry is starting a medical library.

PG is going national!! Staff members **Blaine Bonham, Mindy Maslin, Sally McCabe, Flossie Narducci,** and **Sue Phillips** will be traveling to Denver to present workshops at the **American Community Gardening Association**'s annual conference. The theme of the conference is **GROWING TOGETHER: Partnerships for Community Revitalization.**

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Winterizing Roses

Don't be a fair-weather friend to your roses! Help them out when it gets cold - or more precisely, *before* it gets cold. Hybrid teas and floribundas need the most protection.

Give your roses some kind of winter protection. While there is no way to guarantee your roses a completely safe passage through the cold months, you can minimize the risk of winter damage by keeping them healthy during the growing season, encouraging a timely dormancy, and providing sufficient insulation.

Inducing Dormancy

Inducing dormancy discourages late-season new growth, which is especially susceptible to frost damage. Therefore, stop fertilizing your roses after August. Allow blooms to stay on your plants after September. In October or November, strip off remaining foliage. Lightly top-prune your roses to prevent wind damage. (New growth from this pruning will be minimal.) *Don't* prune your climbing roses or you'll end up with no flowers next spring.

Insulating Your Roses

Insulation will guard against very cold or fluctuating temperatures. Actually, more roses are lost each year to rapid temperature swings than to low temperatures alone. Quick freezes can burst the cell walls of the stem and destroy the vital plant tissue. Winter thaws can be disastrous if they fool your roses into breaking dormancy too early.

If your rose garden is large, it may be impractical to completely insulate all your plants. In areas where the temperature dips to 10 degrees Fahrenheit , at least mound the base of each plant, covering the graft or bud union. If the bud union freezes and the root stock survives, then sucker growth is all that will come up the next year.

Mound your roses after the first two hard frosts but before the cold comes to stay. Mound 12 inches above the bud union of each bush, using soil from a different part of your garden to avoid disturbing the roots. After the mound freezes, cover it with straw or leaf mulch to keep it frozen. Cylinders of wire mesh can be placed around canes to hold mounded soil and mulch in place and permit easy drainage.

Preparing Rose Beds for Winter

Remove old leaves and flowers from your rose bed. They can potentially harbor diseases and might infect the canes if left to decay in the soil. Shortly before the ground freezes, give the bushes a final deep watering.

Tree Roses and Climbers

Tree roses should be insulated if the temperature dips to 20°F in winter. A rather labor intensive but effective method of protection is to dig up one side of the roots, tip the plant over

into a trench, and cover the entire plant with half a foot of soil. This method is sometimes called the "Minnesota Tip."

Insulate the canes of your climbing roses with straw wrapped in burlap.

August	September
Stop fertilizing roses	Let Blooms Remain on Roses
October	**November**
Strip Rose Foliage	Top Prune Roses

Container Roses

After the first frost, place the plant in an unheated shelter away from frost, wind and temperatures that fall below 10°F. As its leaves fall, remove the plant's remaining foliage. Water occasionally during dormancy so the soil won't dry out. Don't feed! Move the plant outdoors after frost danger passes.

Winter Winds

If you live in a windy area, tie canes together to minimize wind-whipping, which can weaken the roots of your plants. Winter winds dry exposed canes, so you may also want to insulate your canes. Roots can't take up water from frozen soil, and canes that have been damaged from cold are unable to resist water loss.

Sheltered Locations

Consider location when planting roses. Roses that are sheltered from winter winds by a wall or other plants will stay warmer than exposed plants. Walls with a southern exposure will reflect the sun's warmth for added protection. A good time to transplant roses is during late fall or early spring dormancy.

Spring!

Wait until spring is well underway before uncovering your roses. The first warm days may inspire you to garden, but they may yet be followed by icy blasts. When removing soil mounds, be careful to avoid breaking any new growth.

Your efforts will not go unheeded. The marvelous blooms of spring and summer are your roses' way of thanking you for the care you gave them over the winter.

By Ron Ferguson, Jackson & Perkins Gardener's News Fall 1991

On the Vine

TREE & BULB SALE Dig Now....Enjoy Later

Nothing heralds springtime like the glorious bloom of bulbs -- colorful crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips. They require little time and effort, and you will enjoy their blossoms year after year.

This year Philadelphia Green will sponsor the annual **BULB & TREE SALE on October 31st.** It will be an opportunity to order trees and beautiful spring-blooming bulbs at cut rate prices.

Tulips

Among spring-blooming bulbs, tulips are unrivaled for their range of colors, from soft pastels to stronger hues.

Red Emperor — The earliest, largest, most fiery red ever grown, Vermilion scarlet with butterfly heart. Early spring bloom, 18".

Peach Blossom — The best known double rosy pink. Blooms mid-April, 12" Good for forcing indoors.

Daffodils

Daffodils and narcissus are a long-lasting investment, providing years of pleasure in flower beds, borders, rock gardens, among ground covers, around trees, or naturalized in a meadow. Most are fragrant, and most are excellent as cut flowers.

King Alfred — This is America's best-known daffodil since 1899. It is golden yellow with a fringed trumpet. Forces well indoors. Outstanding for naturalizing or as a cut flower. Height 18".

Ice Follies Narcissus— White outer petals with a light yellow crown. Extremely hardy in city gardens as well as in planters. Height to 18".

NEW!! **Paperwhites** for forcing! Grow indoors without a cold treatment.

Hyacinths

Few spring flowers can rival the hyacinth for fragrance. They look best planted in a bed by themselves, or clumped in the foreground of a border. Height is 10".

Pink Pearl — Deep pink. Blooms earlier than most hyacinths.

Perfection — Light blue.

Carnegie — Glistening white.

Mixed Crocus

Unsurpassed for early spring color, these bulbs perform well in rock gardens and flower beds; especially good for naturalizing. **Mixed Colors** include light blue, golden yellow, violet red and white. Height 5".

Asiatic Lilies

Lilies make stately accents in the border or among shrubs; also great for naturalizing. They bloom in June and July, and grow to 36". **Rose Fire** — Orange with yellow throat.

Allium

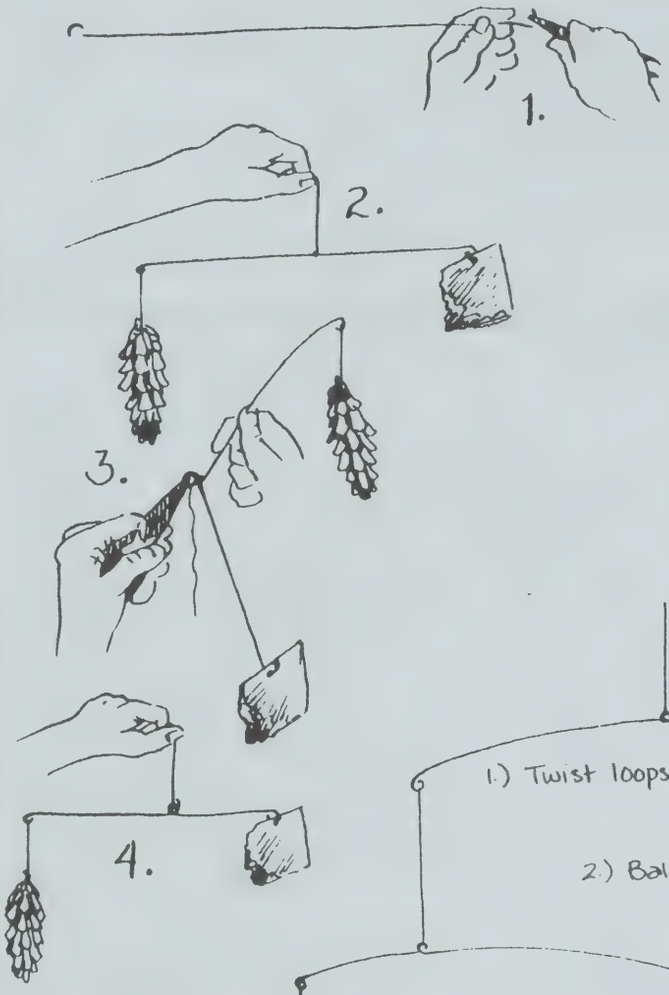
Members of the onion family, they are among the most hardy bulbs available; dried or as cut flowers.

Azureum —Small heads of cornflower blue; bloom June/July, height 24".

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR ORDER FORMS AND FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT TREES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

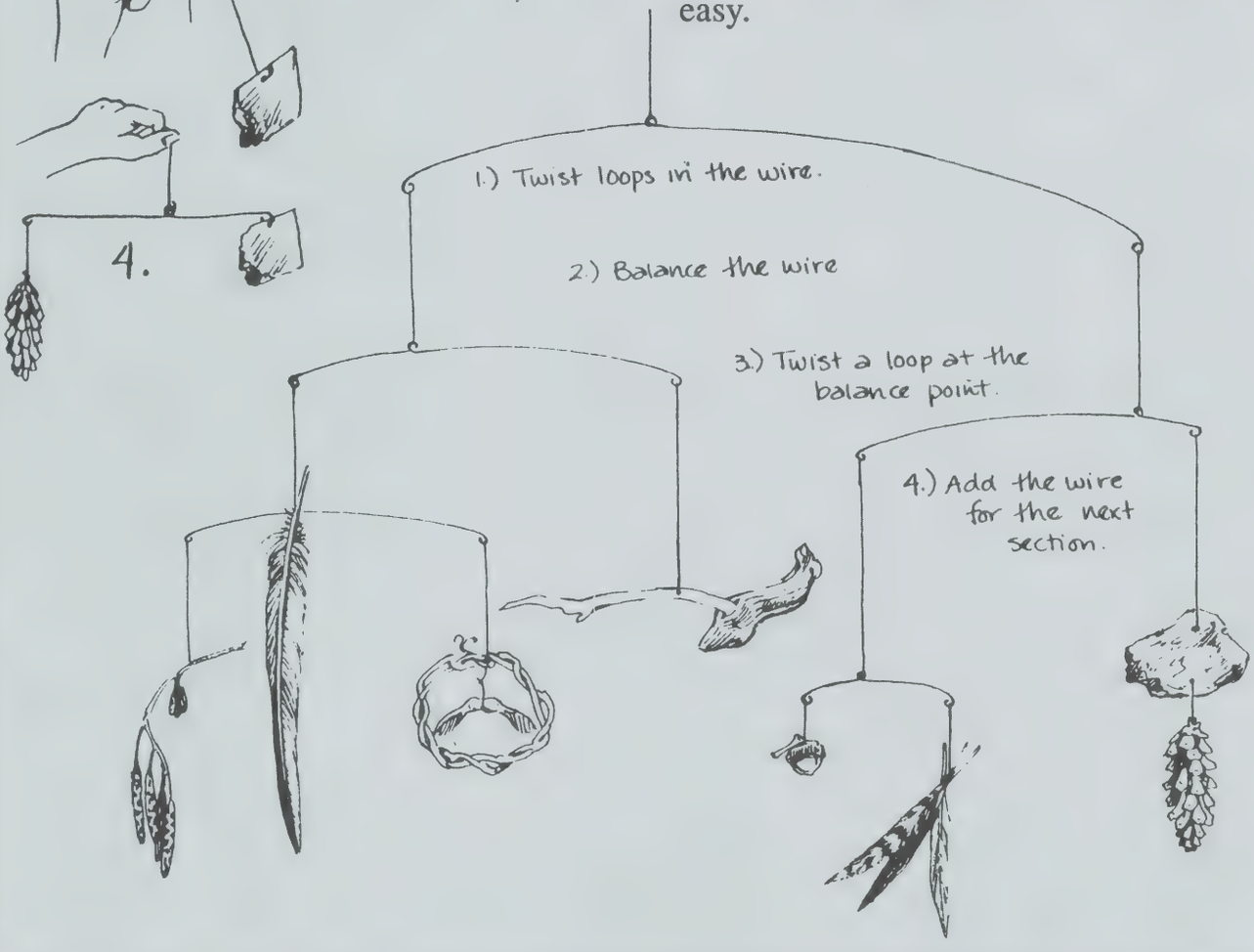
Cultivating Kids

A Fall Woods Mobile



The natural objects collected during a walk in the woods, garden or vacant lot can be assembled, with a little patience, into a mobile that will last for years. Use anything that pleases your eye, like pine cones, branches, seed pods, small stones or feathers. Use stiff wire for the cross pieces, and string or fishing line to hang the sections. Sticks can be substituted as cross pieces.

Balance is important. Start at the bottom of the construction and test each wire with a string to find the balance point. The rest is easy.



DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Imagine my excitement when PG staffer **Flossie Narducci** brought a busload of city gardeners to visit our garden at the edge of Lancaster County. On that warm July morning, eighteen eager gardeners came ready to see the garden I share with my partner **Patrick Valentine**.

People exclaimed over the island beds, bonsai collection, rock mounds and two ponds. One pond is just the size to fit comfortably in a small backyard.

Explorations to all corners of the garden were followed by lunch. After lots of tasty treats and conversation, everyone watched while Pat practiced the ancient art of bonsai. He worked on a misshapen Bird's Nest Spruce dug from the garden that morning. Pat carefully prepared the plant for the move to its new home in a shallow bonsai dish. We sat transfixed as he pruned the spruce into a magical miniature tree.

Later, we all hopped on the bus and rode up the lane to our Amish neighbors. **Verna Beiler** and her three children took us through their dairy barn, explaining farm operations. Her husband **Calvin** was off planting soybeans that day and was sorry to miss the visitors. With young **John Mark** and **Nathan** in tow, Verna and daughter **Leona** served homemade cookies and rhubarb punch which everyone found to their liking.

Throughout the day, I was delighted to see how much everyone was enjoying their visit to our country garden. **Blanche Epps**, who has her own ponds, studied the water plants, fish and frogs. **Laura Sims** filled pages of her notebook with ideas for her flower garden. **Rena and Dave Ennis** found a cozy seat for garden viewing. **Ronni Whiten** learned more about low maintenance gardening. **Gladys Blackwell, Harriet Heaney**, and **Trudl Fuchs** discovered the beauty of ornamental grasses. **Haroldline Trower** was bowled over by the colors of the daylilies. **Nan Leavy** became acquainted with plants that would thrive on her sunny slope. **Gloria Trower, Lisa Yah**, and her companion were totally entranced by the bonsai trees. **Pearl Romans** fell in love with the tiny bright orange flowers of 'Tangerine Gem' Marigold. **Hayward Ford** was amazed by the neighbor's four-year-old son, chasing the cows back to the barn for milking. **Bettie Hicks** beamed when she tasted the farm-fresh milk from the dairy. **Willie Mae Bullock** summed up the feeling of the day when she said, "We must come back next year."

After all the years I've visited friends' gardens across the city, it was great to welcome them to my own.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Please pass this copy along to a friend

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

October 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 14, No. 9. November 1992

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Guild House East and West

by Tom Mishler

Senior citizens living in the two **Guild House** communities, run by the **Friends Rehabilitation Inc.** in North Philadelphia recently had a chance to reshape their surroundings with the help of Philadelphia Green's Community Landscape Architect.

In their first session, residents were encouraged to explore what needed improvement and to explain what they liked about the existing landscape. Vigorous and interesting discussions followed. Individual garden plots were a high priority, as were security, better access and creating a more beautiful landscape.

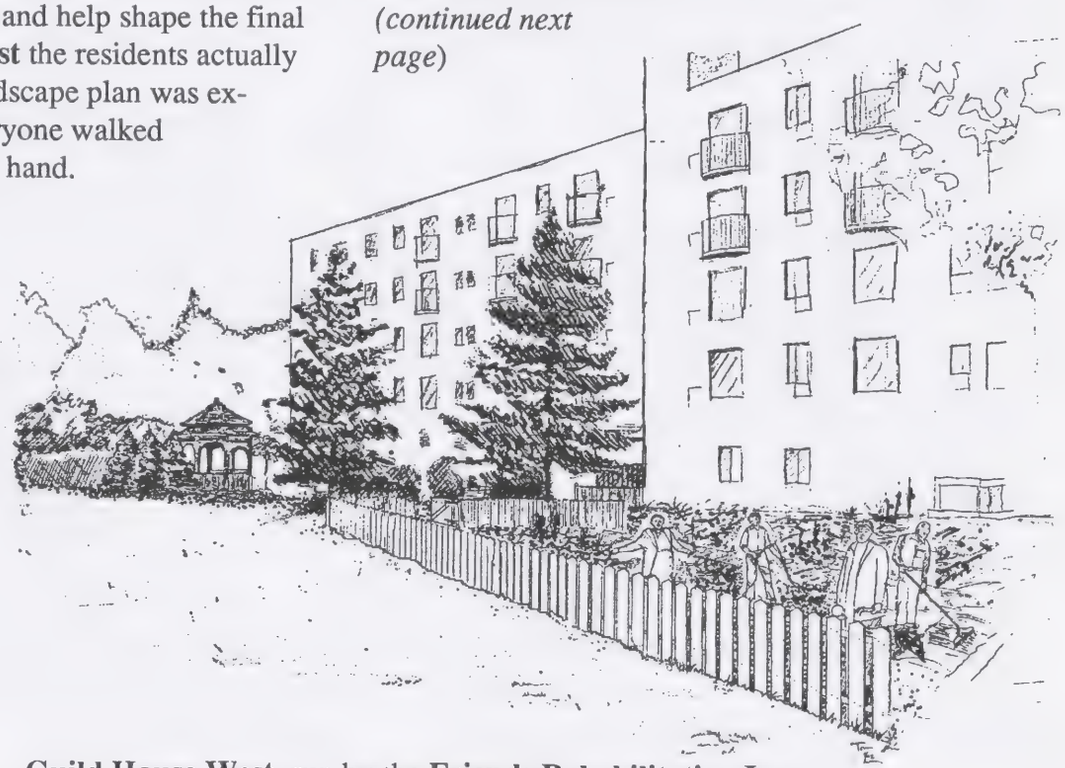
The second design session provided an opportunity to look at preliminary plans and help shape the final plans. At **Guild House West** the residents actually "walked the plan". The landscape plan was explained and adjusted as everyone walked the grounds with the plan in hand.

Friends Rehab, as the property manager, will continue to cut the grass and perform other basic maintenance activities. The residents will get to care for the landscape improvements they envision for their grounds. Residents are being encouraged to start a garden club, and Philadelphia Green's new **Gardeners' Guide** will be an important resource for the new gardeners.

For **Guild House East** at **711 Spring Garden**, the new plans include an entrance courtyard that acts as a buffer from the public sidewalk and the building's front door. New street tree plantings will be installed in a continuous planting strip along a realigned wrought iron fence. Existing tree pits along the curb will be enlarged to give the new trees a better chance of survival .

The back yard is currently almost inaccessible, but broad new sidewalks and realigned fencing will allow much easier access. A shade structure and patio around the existing grill will

(continued next page)



Guild House West, run by the **Friends Rehabilitation Inc.**

Guild House East and West (from front page)

create a space for outdoor socializing that brings the residents of the building together in a common area. Individualized garden plots will give residents a chance to grow their own vegetables and flowers. Some of the plots may be raised using recycled plastic lumber to allow wheelchair users to garden.

Guild House West at **1221 Fairmount Ave.** will be enhanced with ground cover and flowering shrubs along the base of the front facade. Plans include a shade structure for a sunny front sitting patio surrounded by flower gardens. In the rear of the building, the existing garden plots will be realigned and expanded to allow for better sun exposure and eventually the plots will be fenced with a white picket fence, giving the garden a neat and finished appearance. The existing grill area will have a gazebo and more trees added to give greater privacy. Memorial tree locations will be designated so that trees can be planted in proper locations.

Philadelphia Green's landscape architect is now completing the final plans which will include a detailed planting plan and a cost estimate for the improvements. The residents have a yearly budget for landscape improvements and they will work with management to decide priorities and how the plan gets built. So, look for greener Guild Houses in the next few years, designed and cared for by their older and wiser residents.

Tom Mishler has recently come on board as Philadelphia Green's Community Landscape Architect

Kudos!! for Hard Workers

Strawberry Mansion Leaders

Congratulations to the following community leaders who were inducted into the **Order of the Golden Trowel** at the recent Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne Dedication:

Golden Shovel Award
Florie Dotson

Golden Trowel Award
Clannie Berrian
Roosevelt Brodrick
John Dotson
Evelyn Forbes
Marva Harris
Lenore E. Jackson
Charlotte Lewis
Vernon Marks
Jim Norris
Gilbert Tyree

Many other leaders are to be congratulated for their work in Strawberry Mansion. Projects within that neighborhood include **55 garden blocks, 64 lotscapes,** and **23 street tree blocks.**

New Advisory Board Members

Nominees for the **Philadelphia Green Advisory Board** met each other, the nominating committee and PG staff for the first time at the September Board Meeting. They are:

Charlotte Elsner,
Golde Fitzpatrick,
Kathleen Jones,
Nanzetta Leavy,
Rita O'Kedas,
Frank Stefano, and
Sam Williams.

Each nominee has received high recommendations for their interest and participation in gardening activities.

Clippings

Community News

PG staff have been "rolling out the barrels" in the Mt. Airy and Germantown sections of the city this fall. Several blocks are sprucing up their look by adding wooden barrels with attractive flowers. Welcome to these new Garden Blocks located at **4900 Pulaski Street, Nina Gordon**; **4600 Fernhill, Christine Johnson**; **200 W. Seymour, Nettie Boykin**; **5600 Broomall, Joan Williams**; **4600 Germantown Ave., Verna Toombs**; and **100 W. Weaver, Rose Lawrence**. City blocks interested in obtaining barrels and flowers should know that Philadelphia Green concentrates Garden Blocks in specific parts of the city. When an area is chosen, we send letters to residents there and will work with those who reply within two weeks with signed petitions.

Norris Square residents **Iris Brown** and **Jeannine Burgos** hope to make some new friends when they travel to Nicaragua in November. They will be part of a group of twelve, including a doctor, a nurse, and a teacher, which wants to "support and encourage personal interaction and communication between people with common problems". Iris has a story to tell about families and drugs in her neighborhood. She will take pictures, tape recorded messages and letters from Norris Square children and seniors to introduce them to their counterparts in Nicaragua. Hopefully this will lead to a pen pal exchange between individuals.

Ingrid Montgomery will also be reaching out to another country. She is spending the 1992-93 academic year in Gambia, West Africa along with 12 other teachers as part of the **Teachers for Africa Program**. Ingrid will be missed during her sabbatical from our Advisory Board.

The Harvest Show kids tent featured over 50 entries from groups that Youth Education Specialist **Gene Reeves** has worked with over the past year. The **Michael Jordan 4-H Club** led by **Rita O'Kedas**, the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** and two classes from **Pierce School** entered plants in the Youth Classes.

The **Michael Jordan 4-H Club** enjoyed two big events in one day. They traveled to Snipes Nursery to pick apples and peaches, then later visited PG staffer Gene Reeves' farm in Bristol. After a tour of his garden, they celebrated by "breaking a pinata" (a papier-mache decoration filled with candy).

Dorothy Lofton, a long-time gardener in North Philadelphia, suffered a stroke this past summer and is currently recovering. She would appreciate hearing from fellow gardeners. Please send cards and letters to Dorothy Lofton at Fairview Care Center, 184 Bethlehem Pike, Philadelphia, PA 19150.

Entries in the 1992 Harvest Show Annuals Class were a treat for the eyes and nose. Two **Strawberry Mansion** gardeners garnered several ribbons in this class. **Jim Norris** of 29th & Arizona got a first and third for his colorful celosias. **Clannie Berrian**, a new gardener, took home a first and second for her marvelous marigolds.

Some generous gardeners at Philadelphia Housing Authority's **Johnson Homes** donated 100 pounds of nutritious vegetables to a local women's shelter. **Fannie Blair**, **Gertrude Dyer**, **Elaine Young**, and **Ethel Anderson,** along with PG Assistant Coordinator **Jim Holahan** picked excess vegetables from their garden plots for this worthwhile cause.sponsored by **Share Our Strength (SOS)**. Fanny and Ethel generously purchased additional produce with their own funds. SOS is a nationwide organization that supports distribution of locally grown produce to the homeless. Next year, Johnson Home gardeners will take part in more sharing activities.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Strawberry Mansion
Greene Countrie Towne

Dedicated September 18th, 1992

Community Winners
1992 City Gardens Contest

1st Year Philadelphia Green Gardens

3rd **2535 N 29th Street**
Otis G. Cummings and neighbors

6100 Germantown Avenue
Donna Caesar and neighbors

3237 W Page Street
John A. Malone and neighbors

2nd **2141 N Marston Street**
Lenora Jackson and neighbors

2335-41 N Orianna Street
Nelly & Willy Parker and neighbors

1944-46 N 32nd Street
Catherine Jordan and neighbors

1st **1523-25 North & Sydenham Streets**
Barbara Wolfe and neighbors

Philadelphia Green Garden Blocks

3rd **3300 Block of W Cumberland Street**
Delores Butler and neighbors

3000 Block of W. Fountain Street
Elaine Perrett and neighbors

1600 Block of W Edgley Street
Mary Atkerson and neighbors

2nd **5000 Block of Ludlow Street**
Daisy Ree Gervin and neighbors

400 Block of S 51st Street
Rena Ennis and neighbors

2700 Block of French Street
Lenora Evans Jackson and neighbors

1st **3700 Block of N 15th Street**
Minnie Radcliffe and neighbors

4200 N Fairhill Street
Carmen Lopez and neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

3rd **5960-70 Lambert Street**
Olivia Blackwell & Neighbors

5900 Block of Champlost Street
Janell Mays & Neighbors

5801-11 Morton Street
Sarah Kennedy & Neighbors

100 Block of Church Street
Elaine Jermyn & Neighbors

2nd **400-418 E. Haines Street**
Doris Watkins & Neighbors

1700 Block of W. Edgley Street
Dollie Pinckney & Neighbors

6100 Block Washington Avenue
Laura Sims & Neighbors

1st **6200 Block of Hazel Street**
Nanzetta Leavy

tie

2100 Block Wharton Street
Estelle Gelzer

Gardens of the Lotscape Beautification Program

3rd **1118 Fitzwater Street**
Jerry Hofer and neighbors

1959-65 N 31st Street
Marion Faison and neighbors

2nd **1347 S 32nd Street**
Alice Riley and neighbors

2221 W Page Street
Robert E. Lee and neighbors

1st **27th & French Streets**
Clannie Berrian and neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Small

3rd **2313-15 N. 20th Street**
R. Bagby and Mary Lee Higgs & Neighbors

20th & Susquehanna Streets
Alice Woods & Neighbors

2257-63 N. Palethorpe Street
Don Bienvinido Carrillo & Neighbors

2nd **2700 Park Avenue**
Ethel Foster & Neighbors

Seedy Acres 912-20 N. Leithgow Street
Bev Montgomery, Angela Kalmus & Neighbors

1202-13 S. 26th
Cynthia Anderson & Neighbors

1st **12 S. 43rd Street**
Donald Pierce & Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **Ogden & Hutton Streets**
Josephine Speights & Neighbors

20th & Tioga Streets
Grover Willis & Neighbors

2nd **Belmont Park**
Stephen Reavis & Neighbors

28th & Cambria Streets
Annie Dee Hyman & Neighbors

1st **Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden**
Elaine Young & Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Large

3rd **Duval & Ardleigh Streets**
Delmar & Beverly Gill & Neighbors

44th & Parrish Streets
Jessie Carter & Neighbors

2nd **2641 N. 6th Street**
Adariano LaPinia & Neighbors

Church Lane & Baynton Street
Chris Nicholson & Neighbors

4810-14 N. 58th Street
James Newman & Neighbors

1st **3rd & Christian Streets**
Libby Goldstein & Neighbors

Tree Farms

3rd **George Washington Elementary School**
5th and Federal Streets
Dennis Donahue and Students

2nd **J.H. Brown Elementary School**
Stanwood and Frankford Avenue
Michael Weiss and Students

1st **Harding Middle School**
tie Patti Kieser/Carol Venegaites and Students
Torresdale and Wakeling

South Philadelphia High School
Sam Williams, Tina Petrone & Students
Broad and Snyder Avenue

Community Flower Gardens (Small)

3rd **3023 W Page Street**
Mary Miller and neighbors

1301 W Auburn Street
Willie Mae Glissen and neighbors

2201-03 N 2nd Street
Iris Brown and neighbors

2nd **2811 N Judson Street**
June Malson and neighbors

314 Emily Street
Alice Murray

1st **6118 Callowhill Street**
L. Singleton and neighbors

Community Flower Gardens (Mid-size)

3rd **St. Simon's - 22nd & Reed Streets**
Golde Fitzpatrick and neighbors

2nd **1764-66 N 28th Street**
Virginia Dowdy and neighbors

1700 N Newkirk Street
Daisy Singletary and neighbors

49th & Florence Streets
M. Tate & Beth Showell and neighbors

2519-25 Warnock Street
Lily Yeh and neighbors

1st **22nd & Sears Streets**
Dave Pierce and neighbors

Community Flower Garden (Large)

3rd **2340 N 29th Street**
Jim Norris and neighbors

2427-37 N Marston Street
Lorraine Harris and neighbors

2801-03 W Diamond Street
William Dixon and neighbors

44th & Locust Streets
Adam Levine & neighbors

2nd **2127-31 Pacific Street**
Doris Allen and neighbors

2540 Germantown Avenue
Lily Yeh and neighbors

Garden Association of Market Street
118 Church Street

Schuylkill Falls Library
Sallie Maser and neighbors

1st **Loxley Court**
Jane and Phillip Stetson and neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Small

3rd **30-34 S. 44th Street**
Shelda Glover & Neighbors

Salford & Arch Streets
Madeline Williams & Neighbors

2nd **4600 Linmore Street**
Lucille Washington & Neighbors

2003-05 Palethorpe & Norris Streets
Rev. Rysard Hermanowicz

1st **4641 Westminster Street**
Jean Reed & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **2409 N. 31st Street**
Colonial Banks & Neighbors

15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe & Neighbors

2nd **1727-29 Mascher Street**
Sam Hatter & Neighbors

1st **46th & Wyalusing and Merion Avenue**
Elnora Jones, Hazel Parker & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Large

3rd **25th & Tasker Streets**
Josephine Jackson & Neighbors

6733 Emlen Street
Gladys T. Blackwell & Neighbors

2nd **41st and Parkside Avenue**
Willie Mae Adams & Neighbors

915-19 N. American Street
Peter Steliga & Neighbors

17th & Westmoreland Streets
Mildred Peterkin & Neighbors

1st **1505-09 N. 7th Street**
Carmen Delgado & Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Very Large

3rd **18th & Glenwood Avenue**
James Taylor & Neighbors

25th & Spruce Streets
Susan Hale & Neighbors

2nd **Garden of Eatin'**
Alta Felton & Neighbors

Aspen Farms
Hayward Ford & Neighbors

1st **64th & Market Streets**
Developmental Services Center
Korean Community

Super Senior Citizen Award

Mamie Rivers
Garden of Eatin'
25th & Dickinson

Cultivating Kids

Community Children's Gardens City Gardens Contest Winners

3rd **41st & Chester Streets**
Children's Garden
Lauren Leatherbarrow and kids

Seedy Acre Kids
900 Block N. Leithgow St.
Bev Montgomery, Sally McCabe and kids

2nd **416 Queen Street Children's Garden**
Robert Cucknell and kids

Project Rainbow
Sister Diana Cerchio and Kids

1st **Farson & Brown Streets Kids**
Ella Artis and kids

Youth Garden Grants Available

The National Gardening Association will again be offering youth gardening grants to gardens working with kids. The grants are in the form of tools, seeds and books, and are worth up to $500. **Deadline for submission is November 13, 1992**, so contact them right away!

To request an application, send a legal size self-addressed envelope with 52 cents postage to

National Gardening Association
Dept NGGP
180 Flynn Ave
Burlington, VT 05401

What do I do with all those green tomatoes, anyway???!!

Fried Green Tomatoes From an old Kentucky recipe

Slice 1/4" thick pieces of firm large tomatoes, green throughout. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and sugar. Dip in cornmeal and fry in a skillet containing enough bacon drippings to cover the slices. Have fat hot when tomatoes are added, then reduce heat and brown on one side. Turn with pancake turner and brown on the other side. Serve with hot homemade chili sauce.

Healthy note: Try any breading or batter and feel free to substitute a lesser amount of vegetable oil for the bacon drippings. The sugar also isn't necessary.

Most people like them plain, but the chili sauce mentioned in the old recipe is a nice touch. A chutney or fruit catsup goes well too.

Borrowed from the Capital District Community Gardens Newsletter, Troy, NY.

Green Tomato Pie From Greg Funk, Chef Extraordinaire

One 14" circle pate brisee (or 9" pie crust)
6 medium green tomatoes
3/4 cup golden raisins
1 1/2 teaspoon lemon rind
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1 1/2 cup sugar
4 tablespoons flour
scant 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ginger
2 tablespoons cold butter
confectioners' sugar

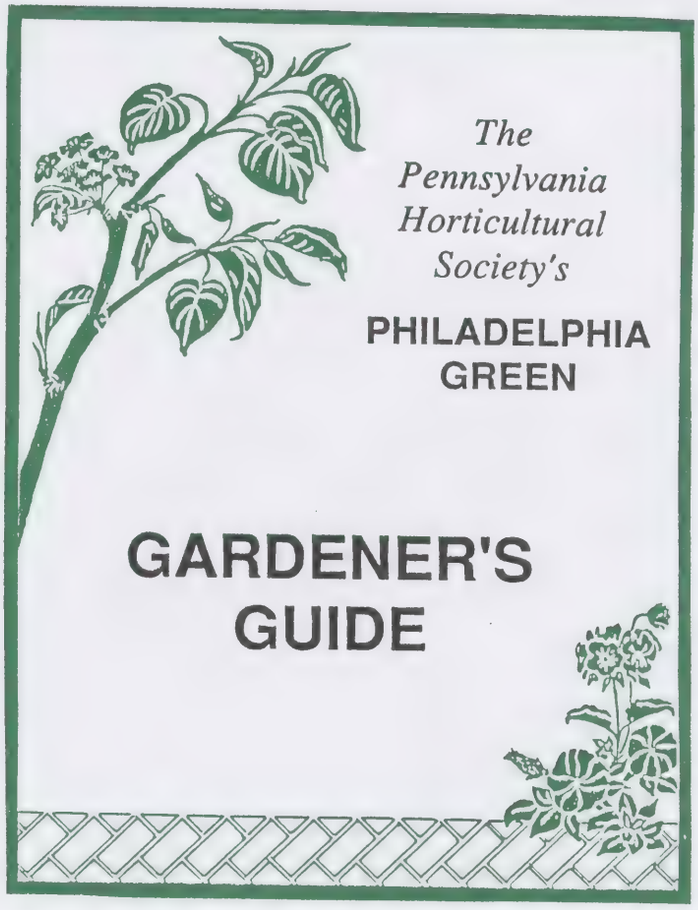
Center the pastry in a 9 inch pie plate. Chill. Preheat oven to 425 ° F. Wash tomatoes and slice in 1/4 inch slices. Place in mixing bowl with raisins, lemon rind, lemon juice and vinegar. Combine sugar, flour, salt, cinnamon and ginger. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons dry mixture in bottom of shell. Toss remaining with tomato mix. Turn into pastry.
Dot with butter
Bake 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 °F and bake 50 minutes. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Serve with ice cream.

Greg Funk recently gave a cooking demonstration at the 1992 Harvest Show. PG staff who helped clean up afterward practically ate the tablecloth, the food was so good!

Gardeners' Guide Available

By popular request, Philadelphia Green has put together the **Philadelphia Green Gardeners ' Guide**, a month-by-month gardening calendar with corresponding educational handouts.

This reference manual is a collection of already existing handouts developed by PG and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, along with contributions from greening programs nationwide. The information is organized in a loose-leaf binder, and is divided into four catagories: **GARDENING, ORGANIZING, YOUTH & CRAFTS**, and **RESOURCES**. As gardening practices change and new handouts are developed, we will provide additional sheets and updates to be inserted in the guide.



Save the cost of postage by coming by our office to pick up your copy!
Come to:
PHS/Philadelphia Green
325 Chestnut St. Suite 800
(Above the Provident Bank at the corner of 4th & Chestnut)

If you would like to have a copy of the **Philadelphia Green Gardeners' Guide** mailed to you, please fill this out.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

# of copies _____

Enclose $ 2.00 each for postage

Total enclosed $ _____

Return to:
PHS/Philadelphia Green Education Department 325 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Spirits were high in Strawberry Mansion that Friday afternoon in September. It was the day many people had been working towards for four years. Everyone gathered to celebrate the dedication of the **Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne**. Community leaders **Florie Dotson**, **Lenora Jackson Evans**, **Jim Norris**, **Denise Clark** and **Evelyn Forbes** were on board the trolleys carrying representatives of foundations, city agencies, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to the celebration.

As we approached the dedication site at **Tanner Triangle**, where Diamond, Sedgley and 28th Streets meet, our excitement reached a fevered pitch. Singers from the **Most Precious Blood Church** burst into a triumphant hymn just as the trolleys drew up. Soon after, the **Richard Wright Elementary School Choir** charmed the audience with their musical talents. **John Street**, City Council President and **John Kromer**, Acting Director, Office of Housing and Community Development were joined by **Barbara Kaplan**, Executive Director, City Planning Commission, on the speakers platform. These visiting dignitaries acknowledged the tremendous impact the gardens have made on the neighborhood.

The Society recognized the vigorous efforts of Florie Dotson as community spearhead of the greening activities in Strawberry Mansion. In response, Florie read her "Harmonizing Prayer," closing with these inspiring words, "May we be able to embrace each other and say, behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell and work in unity." She and John Street then unveiled the special Greene Countrie Towne plaque.

Charlotte Lewis, coordinator of Tanner Triangle, **Dorothy Maddrick** of Sedgwood Garden, and **John Dotson** (part of the dynamic Dotson duo) were members of the host committee. They encouraged all to partake in a ritual sharing of strawberry shortcake at the close of the ceremonies.

The celebration continued into the next day. The planning committee named it **People's Day** in recognition of everyone's work in making their dream of a Greene Countrie Towne come true. Early in the day, residents hosted a memorial service in the garden at 32nd and Cecil B. Moore. **Reverend McKetrig** offered the opening prayer. **Tammy Johnson**, granddaughter of one of the block captains who had passed, sang a moving hymn. **Mary-Lena Brown** acknowledged the strong spirit of community that linked everyone, even those departed friends, by keeping the neighborhood thriving. From beginning to end, people gave tribute to all who worked in turning the dream into a reality. Everyone had a share in that glory.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a friend

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

November 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol 14, No. 9. ~~November~~ 1992

No. 10 Dec 92

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Traveling Tree Exhibit

by Mindy Maslin

Following a month-long stay at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and a showing at the Harvest Show, the **Tree Exhibit** has hit the road, visiting **Guild House West** and **Drexel University.**

Celebrate Trees is an exhibit that looks at our City's historic relationship with trees dating back to William Penn's time, when he dreamed that Philadelphia would always be a **Greene Countrie Towne**, with one acre of green for every five acres of development. The exhibit also looks at today, where people are working to keep Penn's dream alive. It then moves forward to the year 2020, where we view two potential futures for our city — one where trees have been cared for, the other where trees have been lost in the name of progress.

Future sites for the display include the **Horticultural Center,** the **Academy of Natural Sciences**, **Tyler Arboretum,** and **Plymouth Meeting Mall.**

For a schedule of Exhibit stops or to arrange for a tour for your group, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Susquehanna GCT Takes Next Step

by Jeff Myers & Janet Carter

Gardeners formed a Garden Club in **Susquehanna** this year . When development of new gardens officially ended with the Dedication of their **Greene Countrie Towne** in 1990, the emphasis turned to garden maintenance and education. The gardeners decided the best way to foster this interest was to form an association of people conerned about greening.

The first meeting was hosted in early spring by the gardeners at **2143-47 N. 19th St., Alice Robertson**, coordinator. Participation was strong. Guest speakers Jeff Myers and Janet Carter from Philadelphia Green demonstrated proper techniques for pruning roses. Gardeners from all over Susquehanna (*continued next page*)

Ronnie Manlin** of Drexel University views the tree exhibit Celebrate Trees with PG staff member **Mindy Maslin

Susquehanna Garden Club (continued from front page)

attended and all agreed to continue on a regular basis, rotating garden sites for meetings.

Subsequent meetings were held at **Iva Mouzon**'s garden at the corner of **Huntington & Chadwick** and at **Levonia Major**'s garden at **2600 N. Bancroft**. Topics for discussion and demonstration were Planting Annuals and Planting Perennials, The third get-together was at **Marjorie Thornton**'s garden at **2363 N. Lambert St.**, where everyone learned about Mums, Fall Gardening and Getting Ready for the Harvest Show.

The November meeting was hosted by **Rachel Bagby** at **PCRC** headquarters, **2300 N. Woodstock**. Guest speaker was **Walt Fisher**, a member of PHS Council. Walt presented a slide show and workshop on **Forcing Bulbs Indoors.**

Several Garden Club members are so enthusiastic about learning that they've started going to workshops in other neighborhoods. **Mary Atkerson, Helen Clowney** and **Marjorie Thornton** ventured over to Northern Liberties in late October for a how-to demonstration of how to put a perennial garden to bed. They joined gardeners from **Seedy Acres** in the **900 block of N. Leithgow St.** for hot spiced cider. They divided perennials and herbs to share, and planted bulbs, daylilies, hosta and ajuga in a formerly sunny bed that has become partially shady over the last few years.

Upcoming Events December, January, February

December	19	Hanukkah starts at sunset
	24	PG OFFICE CLOSED
	25	PG OFFICE CLOSED . Christmas
	26	Kwanzaa starts
	31	PG OFFICE CLOSED
January	1	PG OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!!!
	23	**A New Beginning -- Celebration and Workshop** **Planning & Planting Your Food Garden** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series. 4601 Market Street 9:30-noon
	30	**The Wealth Beneath Your Feet** **Making the Most of Your Soil** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.
February	6	**Something Old, Something New** **What a Variety! Heirlooms and Hybrids** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.
	13	**Here's to Your Health -- Nutrition For Plants & People** Penn State Urban Gardening Program Winter Workshop Series.

Happy

Holidays

from all of us at
Philadelphia Green!

Clippings

Community News

Gardening will continue at the **47th and Warrington Garden** thanks to the efforts of **Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA)**, the gardeners and the community. NGA took ownership of the garden on October 23rd after two years of legal and financial negotiations. When the half-acre property was put up for sale by its owners, the gardeners and neighborhood residents fought back proposed zoning changes and asked NGA to own the land. Since then, the community has been tirelessly fundraising for the down payment and purchase money. This has truly been a community effort. According to Garden Coordinator **JoAnn Fishburn**, everyone is happy that the 18-year old garden is here to stay.

The block club of the **500 Block High Street** showed its stuff recently. They watched residents of nearby **Morton Homes (a Philadelphia Housing Authority site)** tend flower barrels and decided they wanted to do the same. **Joanne Bailey, Stanford Bailey, Doris Cofur, Stephanie Jones and Queenie Slater** led the block's efforts. They contacted PG and obtained barrels. They paid four young people to roll the barrels into place and fill them with soil. Finally, individuals picked up plants at the PG Nursery on a Saturday morning and planted them.

Strawberry Mansion GCT keeps on keeping on. The 3200 Block of Turner Street headed by **Florie Dotson, Dorothy Boseman and Mary-Lena Brown** won 4th prize in the Philadelphia More Beautiful Contest.

Dedicated Fairmount residents **Patricia McLaughlin, Doreen Martin, John Myers and Elizabeth Van Ummersen** transplanted perennials and prepared beds for the winter at the Eastern State Penitentiary **Ribbon of Gold**. These capable volunteers gave up part of an October weekend for this community service. They were accompanied by hard-working PG staffers **Eileen Gallagher, Betsy Johnson and her husband Floyd, Kathryn Newland, and Anne Vallery**.

Advisory Board member **Pearl Romans** sent a very expressive thank-you note to PG Education Specialist **Sally McCabe** about the October "Renovating Perennials" workshop at Seedy Acres. Pearl's words speak for themselves. "Thru Philadelphia Green, I've seen many parts of our city I would never have seen otherwise. Have enjoyed meeting so very many nice people..."

Hold those questions. The **PHS Hotline** will be closed during December. Their hardworking volunteers deserve a breather! The Hotline (922-8043) will resume on Monday, January 4th, 1993 from 9:30 - noon.

Staff Stuff

More on the American Community Gardening Association's, (ACGA) annual conference in Denver. In addition to the PG staff listed in last month's Clippings, other staffers and community gardeners attended. Staffers **Janet Carter, Verlene Johnson, Jeff Myers, and Anne Vallery**, as well as **Rena Ennis and Hayward Ford, PG Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair,** discussed the history and future of Philadelphia Green in a presentation by PG Director **Blaine Bonham**.

Pike's Peak or Bust! During their free time away from the conference, several brave individuals took the Cog Railroad to Pike's Peak where the air was rare. Here they experienced real "oxygen deprivation." The plus side of this was the surge of energy employees felt when returning to work at normal altitude in Philadelphia.

Happy Holidays to all the children of Philadelphia Green. We wish you will always feel UMOJA - the unity of Kwanzaa, the miracle of light celebrated by Hanukah, the renewal of the winter solstice of the sun, and the joy and peace of Christmas.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

It's the morning after the **City Gardens Contest Awards Ceremony**. I am remembering the events of last evening and why I love to go. I often see folks I only run into once or twice a year - like a family reunion with lots of hugs and kisses. One fellow I'd never met before said, "Everyone's so friendly here. But then, gardeners are friendly people." And why? In the words of an old friend I greeted last night, it's because "we share the Gardening Spirit."

People piled into the auditorium of the Port of History Museum with standing room only. Contestants numbered 547 and the audience represented 167 winning gardens. **Flossie Narducci**, Contest Coordinator, quoted the Olympics creed to remind us that, "the most important thing is not to win, but to take part."

Herb Clarke and **Diane Allen,** as presenters, added humor and grace to the proceedings. Herb described the tremendous impact that ciy gardens, both individual and community, have on each neighborhood. His words, "We thank you for your work and we salute you," were greeted with enthusiastic applause.

As a fitting tribute to the growing skills of the younger generation, the childrens' garden awards came first. Children from **Farson and Brown Street Kids**, **Project Rainbow**, **Kaleidoscope,** and **Seedy Acres** joined the ranks of the garden greats. Youthful tree farmers from **Harding Middle, South Philadelphia High, J.H. Brown Elementary, and George Washington Elementary Schools** received their just rewards. **Mamie Rivers** was recognized as the **Senior Citizen** of the 1992 contest for her cultivating skills in **The Garden of Eatin'**. Screams of delight and wild applause greeted the announcement of many a winner. Several exclaimed, "We did it again!" People beamed as they made their way to the stage to accept their prizes.

The audience participation was great. We oohed and aahed over the beautiful slides. The amount of creativity and hard work was astounding. Gardeners used formal and rustic approaches to garden design. People created gardens with trellises, pathways, patios, ponds, fountains, statues, murals, stones and wood fences.

There were gardens in courtyards, on vacant lots, on rooftops and even on top of walls. Plants were grown in windowboxes, barrels, beds and rock gardens. The judges' remarks ranged from "an oasis," "a jewel," to "a landmark in the community," and "a heavenly paradise."

That's why I love the City Gardens Contest. It brings out the best gardening in all of us.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

December 1992

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 15, No. 1 January/February 1993

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Phase II Is Underway For Twenty-Sixth Street Gateway

Barbara Olejnik

We're off and running with more plantings and construction underway at the corner of **26th and Penrose Avenue**. This major gateway into Philadelphia will be transformed over the next eight months. The Society, in partnership with the **City of Philadelphia Department of Streets** and the **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**, is continuing to expand the landscape improvements designed for this area by **Andropogon Associates**. Funded through a federal/state/local highway improvement program, this new eight-month phase will complete **"Penrose Meadows,"** our name for the landscaping of the 26th & Penrose Avenue intersection, with the planting of the three remaining corners. The northwest corner was planted in 1990 to kick off the Gateway project.

The plans call for removal of all the existing asphalt and adding hedge rows of trees, sweeps of wildflowers and clusters of flowering perennials and shrubs. You may have noticed that the buildings on the corners are now gone and in their place are piles of soil that will be the foundation for the new raised planting areas. The landscape contractor, **Keystone Conservation Services**, started work in early November and will complete the project by early summer 1993.

In addition, we have been funded by **CONRAIL** to manage and maintain the railroad embankments along the northeast side of 26th Street. This calls for removing invasive weeds, clearing out brambles and overgrown vines and hauling away lots of litter and debris. Soon you will be able to see into the existing groves of trees bordered by our Ribbon of Gold plantings.

On the opposite side of the street from the CONRAIL embankments, work will continue to lengthen the plantings along the **Sun Company** fence edge up to the Schuykill Expressway, thanks to the Sun Company's generous support. We're grateful for all the support we've received from all our partners on this project and look foward to the 26th and Penrose Gateway abloom next summer.

*Another Center City Green project, the **City Hall** planting was attended by over 100 volunteers, including **Jane Pepper, PHS President; Bill Mifflin**, Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Commission; **Frederick C. Frank, III**, Vice President PNC Bank; and Mayor **Ed Rendell**.*
Photo by Ira Beckoff

Center City Green Report

Volunteers Make It Happen

Kathryn Newland

Center City Green volunteers have been out in force over the spring, summer and fall gardening at Ribbon of Gold sites and at the Azalea Garden. These faithful volunteers show a commitment to their neighborhood that deserves a round of applause.

Monthly maintenance workshops were held at the Eastern State Penitentiary Ribbon of Gold in the city's Fairmount neighborhood. The six hundred twenty five feet long, four feet wide perennial border of yellow flowers serves as quite a maintenance challenge. But with team leader **Patricia McLaughlin**, five to ten volunteers showed up the third Saturday of each month to deadhead perennials and weed, weed, weed. Undaunted, they attacked those weeds and spent blooms over and over again. Wielding their trusty pruning shears in November, nine volunteers went to work to cut back every last plant (over 2,000) and put the massive garden to bed for the winter.

Led by **Charlie Thomson**, Spring Garden Street Ribbon of Gold volunteers expanded their responsibility by adding plantings to the median beds on the 1700 and 2100 blocks this spring. Maintained by dedicated volunteers **Rosina Feldman**, **Charlotte Hangorsky**, **Patti Lipschutz** and **Nick Johnson** (to name a few), these median planting beds looked glorious with their ornamental grasses and golden perennials. Again, volunteers worked tirelessly to deadhead, weed and remove the litter that blows down Spring Garden Street right into the beds. A big effort to add more grasses to the 1900 block in October was successful and the median gardens were put to bed gradually over November and December.

Friends of the Azalea Garden came out for monthly workdays to hear experts discuss various gardening topics and then get to work. They planted annuals, weeded, pruned azaleas and deadheaded and cut back perennials to supplement the maintenance performed by a landscape contractor. Each month another set of tasks was tackled by the volunteers and accomplished with a lot of tender loving care. The newest project by the Friends was the planting around the Italian Fountain.

Thanks To Our Funders

The public landscape projects carried out through the Society's Philadelphia Green program are funded through both private and public sources. In addition, **Ribbon of Gold** plantings located in neighborhoods around Center City raise money towards their project installation and maintenance costs.

A big thanks to all these recent major contributors:

Boeing Company
City of Philadelphia Department of Streets
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
CONRAIL
Fairmount neighbors
The Garden Club of Philadelphia
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia Committee - Garden Club of America
Philadelphia Electric Company
Philadelphia Flower Show, Inc.
Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust
Provident National Bank
Spring Garden neighbors
Sun Company

Museum of Art Landscape Planned

Kathryn Newland

The landscape of the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** plays a major role in the landscape of Philadelphia. It is both where the grand boulevard of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway ends and Fairmount Park begins. Over the years, the landscape has suffered without consistent maintenance, and today is in need of rehabilitation. The Society, the **Fairmount Park Commission** and the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** have initiated a project to rehabilitate this 25-acre landscape.

Last winter Park and Society staff combed the landscape to make a record of all the plants and their health. Next, the Society hired the landscape architecture firm of **Wallace, Roberts and Todd** and **Morris Arboretum** to develop recommendations for a new landscape. This Rehabilitation Plan, completed in September, is the first in a series of steps to create a beautiful setting for our world-class Museum of Art.

The Plan is now being presented to various agencies in Philadelphia. In the next phase possible funding sources will be investigated. We will soon undertake additional studies to address specific issues such as parking and circulation, drainage, paving and lighting, all necessary to make the final plan. We will choose the first project for implementation when funding is in place and these studies are completed.

Developing partnerships to promote the care and management of Philadelphia's public spaces is one of the important goals of the Society's outreach program. With the Art Museum Rehabilitation Project, we plan to develop a coalition of public and private supporters to transform the landscape into one worthy of the site of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Another Ribbon of Gold project, on the north side of JFK Boulevard heading toward 30th Street Station

"Sunny" Delaware Avenue

Kathryn Newland

There were "Sunflowers in the City" along **Delaware Avenue** between **Chestnut and Market Streets** this summer at our newest Ribbon of Gold. In early June, **Philadelphia Electric Company** graded and seeded the area with wildflowers after their construction work was complete.

James Fuhrman, a local artist, designed and planted five curved bands of sunflowers in the Ribbon of Gold meadow as an "art in the landscape" project. **Penn's Landing Corporation** donated the services of their landscape contractor to water the planting during establishment.

Coming this spring, Phase Two of the project will include more sunflowers, medallions painted with sunflowers lining the side of the Market Street on-ramp, and a super colorful meadow.

Kids Wanted!!

Does your garden grow children?
Philadelphia Green is compiling a list of groups that work with kids in the garden. We'd like to know who you are so we can share news and resources, compare notes, and maybe get together occasionally for fun and games.
Please give Sally or Eve a call at
Philadelphia Green 625-8280.

Branching Out

Tree Farms

Mindy Maslin

Vare Middle School and the **Philadelphia School** are proud new parents of Tree Farms. **Larry Stier**, a committed recycler and the founder of the Garden and the **Youth Ranger Corps** at Vare, was the driving force in Vare's adoption of the trees. Nine saplings were planted in a tree bed that will act as their home for the next two or three years, until they are large enough to plant in permanent locations.

Lois West and **Chris Taranta**, with the **Philadelphia School**, have a long history of environmental activism. Through their efforts with the **Center City Greening Project** and Center City residents like **Frank Stephano**, a state-of-the-art street tree planting was completed this summer around the school, located at 25th & Lombard. The combination of the street trees and the tree farm have changed the look of the school, and have created opportunity for environmental studies on their property.

Students at the Philadelphia School plant their tree farm in raised beds and tend to trees in pots. Trees will later be planted out into permanent homes. Photos by Frank Stephano

a cookbook for the gardening gourmet in all of us

From city house to country field, join with *The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society* as we celebrate the sumptuous feasts, fragrant seasonings and kaleidoscope of color derived from this region's gardeners

Send us your fabulous original recipe or an adapted version of an old favorite and we will create a treasure trove of delicious meals to please even the most selective palates

Recipe Selections Begin February 1.

Please complete the Recipe Collection Form on the reverse side and return by February 1, 1993 to: Jill Evans, 1503 Boyer Boulevard, Norristown, PA 19401

(On the same form, be sure to reserve your copy of the cookbook which will be ready for 1993 holiday giving)

Proceeds from the cookbook will help support The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's acclaimed self-help greening program, Philadelphia Green.

Send us your recipe today!

Hurry! Recipe Selection Begins February 1, 1993

MY FAVORITE RECIPE

PLEASE FILL OUT ENTIRE FORM

Title of Recipe:_____ **Category:** ☐ Appetizer ☐ Box Lunch ☐ Entree ☐ Dessert ☐ Salad ☐ Other

Suggested Title For The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Cookbook:_____

(Special prize for winning title)

Ingredients in Order of Use:

(Precise measurements, can and package sizes in pounds or ounces are required for nutritional analysis.)

1._____ 8._____
2._____ 9._____
3._____ 10._____
4._____ 11._____
5._____ 12._____
6._____ 13._____
7._____ 14._____

Step by Step Directions:

Yield: _____ **Pan Type/ Size:**_____ **Preheat:**_____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Preparation Time:_____**Cooking Time:**_____
Make Ahead?_____**Easy:**_____**Freezes Well?**_____
Origin of Recipe:_____
_____

TO ENSURE ACCURATE CREDIT IN COOKBOOK
PLEASE PRINT

Name_____
Home Address_____
City_____**State**_____**Zip**_____
Daytime Phone (_____)_____

I consent to the publishing of this recipe in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Cookbook and to its copyrighting. I understand that, if published, it could be included in a cookbook offered for sale and that it may be published on a number of occasions.
SIGNATURE:_____

RESERVE YOUR COOKBOOK TODAY!

Please reserve _____ copies of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Cookbook for me.

Complete and Mail by February 1, 1993 to:
Jill Evans, 1503 Boyer Boulevard, Norristown, PA 19401

Clippings

Community News

Philadelphia Green moves South. Former Seedy Acres gardeners **Bob Manness** recently moved to New Orleans because of a job transfer. He was so homesick for his garden plot that he decided to start a community garden on a lot near his new home. He'll keep us posted about events at his frost-free plot.

"Celebrate Trees" is on the road again. PG's informative tree exhibit will be at the Academy of Natural Sciences on the Parkway from January 11th to February 12th. From February 12th to March 1st, you can see it at Mellon Bank at Broad and Chestnut.

New Handouts Deal with Lead

High lead levels are a fact of urban life. Much of the lead is in the soil, and accumulates around lead-based buildings. Sites once used for factories or dumping can also have lead present in the soil. Airborne particles from industrial emissions and auto exhaust also add to lead contamination in backyards, on streets, in playgrounds, parks or gardens.

Lead can be a hazard to humans, particularly young children under six years. The major concern is with direct contact with lead dust in soil or on paved surfaces.

There are precautions you can take to make sure you and your children garden and play safely. To learn how, fill in the order form below to request a free copy of the new handouts, prepared jointly by Penn State's Urban Gardening Program and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green.

Staff Stuff

PG Executive Director **Blaine Bonham** served as an ambassador to **Atlanta** recently. Blaine did double duty in Atlanta. He spoke at the annual Park Pride luncheon honoring Atlanta park employees. He also carried the message of urban greening to a 2-day meeting sponsored by former President Jimmy Carter. Carter has developed a plan for low-income Atlanta neighborhoods and is very interested in Philadelphia Green's impact on similar areas.

1 + 1 = 3. Staffers **Flossie Narducci** and **Kate Swartz** have merged to especially focus on Philadelphia Green volunteers. As the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of Special Events and Volunteers respectively, they will concentrate on the Flower Show Brunch, the Azalea Garden Party, and lots of other events.

Center City Green has a new employee - **Joseph Slane**. As Project Coordinator/Landscape Architect, Joe will do project management, design and field work. He will cover lots of ground from the 26th Street Gateway to the Azalea Garden to Interstate Land Management properties along I-95. Joe stays fit by riding his bike to work.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

---------- tear here ----------

Name _____

Address _____

Please send
_____ Lead in the Garden
_____ Children & Lead
_____ Soil Testing for Lead

Mail to:
Education Dept.. PHS/Philadelphia Green 325 Walnut St. Phila, PA 19106

PLEASE POST

On the Vine

A Gardeners' Gala

Join us for
Brunch at the **Philadelphia Flower Show.**

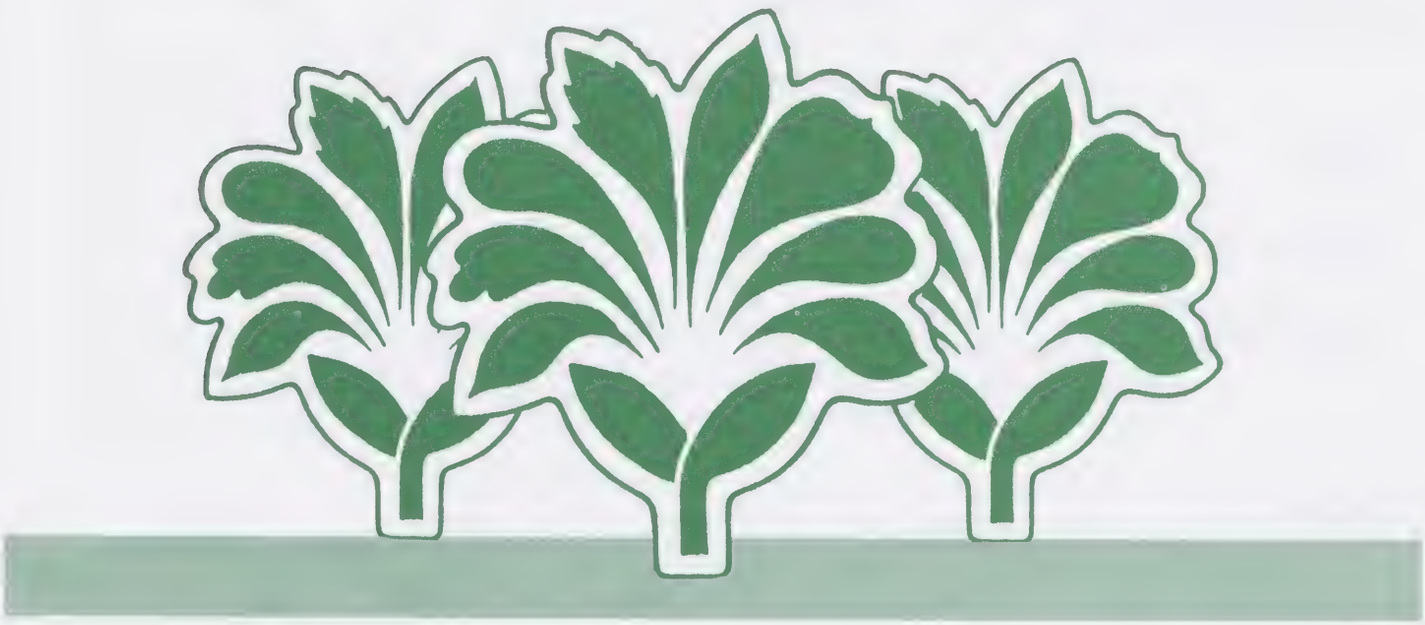
Come to the Philadelphia Flower Show on **Sunday, March 14th.**
Start your day with a sumptuous brunch...

Then join other gardeners in "Preserving the Past, Presenting the Future," and stroll past an ancient walled garden, its floral chintz pattern of espalliered apple trees and rows of vegetables fit for a king's table in the Great Garden at Pitmedden. Behold the treasures of the National Trust of Scotland -- a feast of blossoms, history and lore. When the bagpiper's music fades away, Spring's floral concert begins.

Bring your shopping bag for a visit to the **Flower Show Market Place** where there are more than 100 specialty shops. Here you can purchase pots or plants or a host of horticultural hoopla. Many vendors offer bargains on this final day of the sale.

Watch for invitations in the mail or call Flossie at 625-8280.

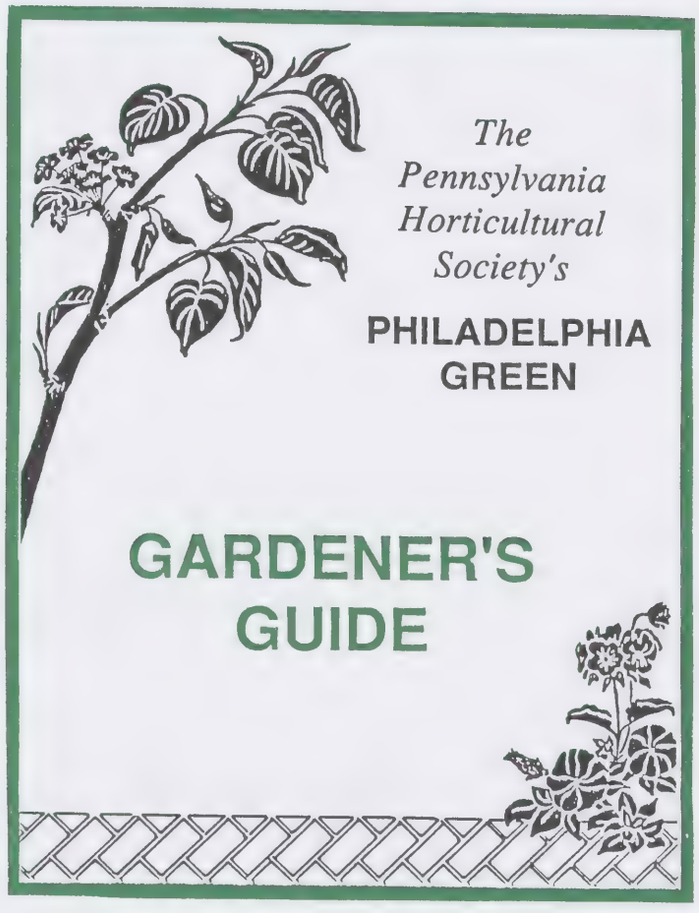
A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
Make your reservations early.
The cost will include a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.



Gardeners' Guide Available

By popular request, Philadelphia Green has put together the **Philadelphia Green Gardeners ' Guide**, a month-by-month gardening calendar with corresponding educational handouts.

This reference manual is a collection of already existing handouts developed by PG and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program, along with contributions from greening programs nationwide. The information is organized in a loose-leaf binder, and is divided into four catagories: **GARDENING, ORGANIZING, YOUTH & CRAFTS**, and **RESOURCES**. As gardening practices change and new handouts are developed, we will provide additional sheets and updates to be inserted in the guide.



Save the cost of postage by coming by our office to pick up your copy!
Come to:
PHS/Philadelphia Green
325 Chestnut St. Suite 800
(Above the Provident Bank at the corner of 4th & Chestnut)

If you would like to have a copy of the **Philadelphia Green Gardeners' Guide** mailed to you, please fill this out.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

# of copies _____

Enclose $ 2.00 each for postage

Total enclosed $ _____

Return to:
PHS/Philadelphia Green Education Department 325 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Three years ago, **Rena Ennis**, Philadelphia Green's retiring **Advisory Board** Chair, was tending her garden one afternoon. A teacher and group of students from neighboring **S.B. Huey Elementary School** (52nd and Pine) stopped by for a sidewalk lesson on plants. That was Science teacher **Kate Loal's** first introduction to Philadelphia Green (PG). Kate invited Rena to see the tree she and her students had planted in front of the school. Over time, Rena brought hostas, daisies and bulbs and now the tree is surrounded by a colorful garden.

As Science teacher for about 200 fourth and fifth graders each year, Kate uses gardening as one of the ways to reach her students. She creatively uses every classroom activity to promote the notion that each of us must protect the Earth.

With a Solar Energy grant from the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO), Kate's students will soon paint a mural, guided by artists from **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network**. The mural will depict a desert and forest, illustrating that all habitats need and use the sun's energy. Her students received a Special Recognition Award from the **Environmental Protection Agency**. These young environmentalists designed a three-dimensional game focused on their own neighborhood. They also won first prize in PECO's Energy Poster Contest.

Since Kate joined our Advisory Board she has involved her students in a number of PG-related events. Students entered prize-winning vegetable prints, inspired by Native American designs, in the Junior Flower Show. They were also part of the crowd that planted flowers around City Hall last spring.

Rena Ennis organized a clean-up in Black Oak Park last November. The park faces Huey School. Kate and 25 students were there. Since they do homework projects in Science, this counted as one project. Some were Girl Scouts who earned community service points. Kate and Rena were joined by **Dawn Hailey** and **Evelyn Chapman** (Girl Scout Leaders), as well as **Jean Hayden, Hayward Ford** (new Advisory Board Chair) and **Steve Kurtz** (Philadelphia's Director of Commerce). These adults encouraged the students to take responsiblity for the well-being of the park.

Kate often dresses as a wizard for special school programs. Her students call her "Miz Wiz" and themselves "her wizards." To my way of thinking, these young wizards are learning to care - the kind of magic it takes to make a difference in their environment. These youngsters are sure to use their knowledge to best advantage in the years to come. How fortunate for all of us that Kate Loal cares so much for the Earth and Her children.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

Jan/Feb1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Vol. 15, No. 2 March 1993

Philadephia Green at the Flower Show

by Anne Vallery

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the Flower Show each year, marveling at the transformation of the Civic Center into a lush 5-acre paradise. But how many of those visitors have any notion of the hours, days, even months of preparation that goes into putting together the various exhibits that make up the Show?

For the last ten years the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green exhibit has represented Community Gardeners and portrayed the contributions they have made toward beautifying the city. Many of those same gardeners use their gardening expertise throughout the year to produce the exhibit.

Work begins with a brainstorming session in June or July. The Philadelphia Green Flower Show Exhibit Committee generates ideas from which a plan is developed. Plants are ordered from the growers in September so that they can be forced into bloom and ready for delivery to the Civic Center in time for the Show in early March.

While the plants are happily growing in the greenhouses, printed materials such as brochures and post cards for distribution at the Show are designed and printed. Informational signs for the exhibit are also produced.

In February work begins in earnest. Staff and volunteers paint, sew, hammer and saw, creating the staging for the exhibit. Once the staging is complete (by the week before the Show opens), each prefabricated piece is carefully transported to the Civic Center.

Throughout the week the puzzle pieces are assembled, in preparation for the arrival of the plants. Once they are delivered, usually by Wednesday or Thursday of set-up week, the work crew of committee, volunteers and staff sets about moving soil, planting trees, shrubs, vegetables and flowers, and putting together all the fine details that make the exhibit unique. Once the last crumb of soil is swept up and the last petal watered and dusted, the display is ready for the judges and the public.

The 1993 Philadelphia Green exhibit, "Greetings From Philadelphia Green," takes visitors through the transformation of a trash-strewn vacant lot to a completed garden paradise. Volunteers will be a part of the exhibit, speaking and showing slides about the evolution of their own garden projects and their involvement with the Horticultural Society. This participation by volunteers gives an opportunity for the public to ask questions about gardening and greening, and makes the Flower Show come alive. Many new friendships are made, and many new gardeners are recruited for the **City Gardens Contest**.

By the time the Show closes on Sunday evening, the wrecking crew is standing by with shovels and hammers, and the most incredible pot luck dinner known to mankind. After fortifying themselves with homemade sweet potato pie, herb bread, rummed flan, pesto, fried chicken and greens, they set to work with a vengeance, tearing apart in a few hours what took weeks to create.

*Many thanks go out to **Meridian Bank**, funder of the exhibit, and to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to make this all possible.*

Cultivating Kids

Kids Wanted!!

Does your garden grow children? Philadelphia Green is compiling a list of groups that work with kids in the garden. We'd like to know who you are so we can share news and resources, compare notes, and maybe get together occasionally for fun and games.

Please give Sally or Eve a call at Philadelphia Green 625-8280.

Evironmental Jeopardy

Back by popular demand!! Because of its great success at schools and assemblies, Philadelphia Green has made a version of Environmental Jeopardy that is portable enough for use in any classroom with an overhead projector. An educational game for grades 3 - 12, it includes the game screen as well as two sets of question and study information. Help students to learn about trees, recycling and their role in the environment while having fun playing a Jeopardy style game. Send $5.00 to The Penna. Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106, Attn. Mindy Maslin

Flower Show Lectures and Demonstrations

Almost all of us have been to the Flower Show, and walked our feet to the bone in the process. Well, here's a chance to sit down and rest those weary dogs, and learn a little horticulture at the same time!

Learn basic flower arranging from professional florists, or exotic Oriental arranging from members of the Ikebana Schools. Or see demonstrations on **Water Gardening, Making Gifts from the Garden, Taking Care of Houseplants,** and special workshops by The Camera Shop, Inc, Minolta and Kodak on **Photographing Flowers**.

Workshops and Demonstrations are held daily. A complete list is printed further on in this issue.

Lead & Children in the Garden

High lead levals are a fact of urban life. Much of the lead is in the soil, and accumulates around lead-based buildings. Sites once used for factories or dumping can also have lead present in the soil. Airborne particles from industrial emissions and auto exhaust also add to lead contamination in backyards, on streets, in playgrounds, parks or gardens.

Lead can be a hazard to humans, particularly young children under six years. The major concern is with direct contact with lead dust in soil or on paved surfaces.

There are precautions you can take to make sure you and your children garden and play safely. To learn how,call for a free copy of the new handouts, prepared jointly by Penn State's Urban Gardening Program and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green.

To obtain handouts on **Lead in the Garden, Children & Lead,** or **Soil Testing,** call Eve at Philadelphia Green, 625-8280.

Clippings

Community News

Children at **Hunter School** in **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne** received a Christmas present from the City of Philadelphia. **The Office of Housing and Community Development** awarded the Norris Square Neighborhood Project the deeds for two lots at 142-44 Dauphin Street which Hunter School will use as a kinderlot. Community activist **Tomasita Romero** and Hunter School teachers **Jennifer Eastman** and **Maryann Longo** petitioned the city for the lots because the yard at the school couldn't hold the kindergarten students. PG Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** is working on a design to make the lot a fun place to play.

Almost overnight, volunteers at **Trevor's Place/ Next Door**, a shelter for homeless families at 17th & Poplar Streets, turned a hardly-used site into a finished garden. **Carolyn Walker**, a volunteer at Trevor's Place contacted Neighborhood Coordinator **Eileen Gallagher** for assistance. Working with **Michael Groman**, Site Development Manager, Eileen provided materials for this special project. In the short space of a week, Carolyn lined up volunteer carpenters and staff to construct the garden. The final result is an attractive area with walkways, outlined beds, benches, and picnic tables. Now, the residents can both work in the garden and enjoy the view.

Residents of the **1900 Block North Darien** did a back-breaking job when they planted trees by hand at **1927-1935 N. Darien Street**. Block Captain **Edwin Garcia**, four residents of the block and **Jose Garcia**, PG Tree Program Intern, turned a vacant piece of ground into a promising tree lot.

These hard workers then passed on what they had learned to Block Captain **Ricardo Delgado** and three of his neighbors at an empty lot **at 1621-23 N. 7th Street** (between Oxford & Cecil B. Moore Streets). The combined group both dug five tree pits by hand and planted trees.

Philadelphia Green is working with the **Meade School** and neighbors from the surrounding area of Cecil B. Moore Avenue and Gratz Street in a concerted effort to bring gardening to the school and community. So far, 21 teachers have started indoor gardens. Students painted their ideas for outside green areas. In January, over 30 residents attended a meeting at the **Wagner Free Institute** where they expressed their interest in the project. Key leaders at the Meade School are **Mrs. Lynette Stuart**, Program Support Teacher and **Mr. Ronald Nottingham**, President of the Home & School Association.

Thank you **Rena Ennis** for your hard work as PG Advisory Board Chair over the past two years. Enjoy your "retirement". We'd like to welcome **Hayward Ford**, the new chair of the Advisory Board. He will have some new players on his team - new board members **Clannie Berrian**, **Charlotte Elsner**, **Golde Fitzpatrick**, **Edna Jones**, **Nanzetta Leavy**, **Rita O'Kedas**, **Frank Stefano** and **Sam Williams**. Due to league expansion, the Advisory Board now has an Azalea Garden Committee and a Ribbon of Gold committee.

Staff Stuff

PG staffers **Janet Carter** and **Sally McCabe** who do double-duty as **American Community Gardening Association** Board members attended the semi-annual ACGA board meeting in New York City. There they met with 20 other board members from across the country. Local community gardeners opened their homes to them. Sally is now serving as Membership Chair. During the winter, Sally and Janet answered more than 250 inquiries from around the country on how to start a community garden.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

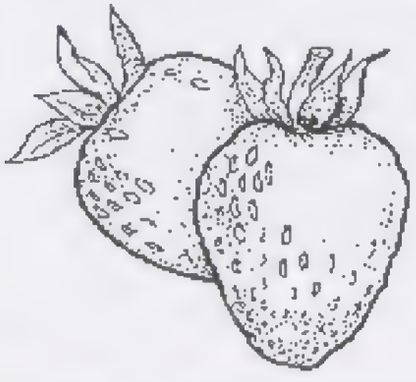
Gardening Tips from All Over

Double Duty Strawberry Beds

Chris from N. 4th Street gave us this advice about stretching the strawberry season in a small garden. Every year he has two beds of strawberries. In one bed he lets his June-bearing plants do whatever they want, putting out all the fruit at about the same time in the spring. Once they're done, he rips out all the plants and uses the bed for another crop, like cucumbers or squash. It's a good time to also dig lots of compost into the bed to feed the next crop.

In the meantime, in his other strawberry bed, he picks all the flowers off the plants. This delays the time that they'll set fruit. Once bed #1 is finished, he lets the fruit in bed #2 develop, which they do almost immediately.

In the fall, when the plants are finished and the runners have developed into strong plants, Chris takes out the mother plants. He then lets some of the daughters (at the ends of the runners) take over the bed. Other daughter plants get replanted into bed #1 after the cucumbers are done.



Digging Deep

When you build a house, you need to put in a strong foundation; when you get ready for a long hike, you need to make sure you have good shoes. And when you start a garden, the most important place to begin is with a good strong soil.

Let's face it—the city isn't exactly well known for its excellent soil. So it necessary each and every year to prepare the soil that you do have for this year's crops.

First, clear the planting bed of any rubble or boulders that may have worked their way to the surface during the winter months. Otherwise they fight with your shovel every step of the way. Don't remove the layer of dead leaves and grasses that blanket the soil, since they'll be the first meal of the season for earthworms once you turn this organic matter in.

With a pointed shovel, dig down to a depth of 8-10 inches. This will be practically impossible the first year, but will get easier with each passing season. Digging this deep breaks up clay chunks and puts the leaves and grasses down where it can be of use to plants and worms.

When finished, the garden should look like the surface of the moon—crater after crater. Exposing the subsoil in this manner allows the sun and warm spring air to take the chill off the cold soil. The warmer temperatures also help to make the soil creatures more active and ambitious.

Part two of the process is to improve the texture and quality of your soil. If digging to a depth of 8 inches was only possible by using dynamite, adding a few inches of organic matter is the answer. Peat moss, compost or mushroom soil will increase the water-holding capacity and make soil easier to work. They will also break down over time to provide food for plants.

Additional food can be given to plants by adding nutrients to the soil now. Bloodmeal and bonemeal are organic fertilizers that provide nitrogen and potassium, needed for root and leaf growth. Rock phosphate is a good source of phosphorus, necessary for flower and fruit production. Add a few coffee cans of each over the garden. Chemical garden fertilizers like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 can also be used now, but not without reading the directions first.

After spreading all of these things over the planting bed, rake or hoe it to break up the large clumps, and to mix together the ingredients. Smooth out the surface and let nature take its course. Spring rains will add moisture, the sun will add warmth, and all the little worms and soil critters will go to work aerating the soil and breaking down the organic matter into nutrients for plant to use.

The payoff for all this effort is a healthier and more productive garden this year.

New Lease on Life

They were beautiful last summer, but over the course of the winter they have started to look tired and run-down. Now is the time to do needed repair and cleanup. Here are a few suggestions:

BARRELS

Have the metal rings fallen down? Tap them back up into place, then secure them by pounding in a few nails to keep them from falling down again.

Top off the soil level with compost or soil. This will remind passers-by that the barrel isn't a trash barrel for their litter.

Mix in rock phosphate as a fertilizer every other year. This is harder if you have planted perennials, but can be done carefully.

Once plants are put in, mulch around them with woodchips. This will keep the soil from drying out as the weather gets warmer.

WINDOWBOXES

Check the edges to see that the wood isn't pulling apart. If it is, pound in a few small nails or use screws.

Check the chains or mounts for strength. Repair them now, before planting.

Painting boxes with a waterproof paint will help to preserve the wood, giving you several more years of use. If you use a wood preservative, be sure that it says on the label that it is not poisonous to plants.

Give a feeding of rock phosphate every other year or so.

Top off with soil or compost.

Spring Tonic

Did you grow collards last year? Did you leave them in the ground all winter because you just didn't get around to cleaning up after the hard freeze turned most of your garden to mush?

Take heart. In spite of what they looked like all winter, spring will bring a rush of growth to last years collard, broccoli, mustard, and turnip plants. These tender spring shoots are tasty and very nutritious, as well as plentiful.

Many cole crops (cabbage family) are biennial. This means that they don't form their flowers and seeds until the second season. And it's these new flower shoots that start sprouting from old plants around the beginning of March.

Pick shoots every day, since they'll flower and become inedible by the second day. Serve them raw in salads or steamed lightly (until dark green) to preserve those vitamins and minerals that make these early vegetables such a good "spring tonic".

Houseplant Reminder

Now that the days are getting longer, houseplants will begin to come out of their winter hibernation and start putting forth active growth. Help them along by fertilizing with a 1/4 solution of instant plant food (Peter's or Miracle Gro are ideal). To get the right strength, mix up enough for a quart, put in a gallon jug, and top off with water. For best results, use water that's been sitting out overnight, since the chlorine will have evaporated away.

Fruits of Labors

Bulbs are blooming like crazy out there! If you'd like them to continue to do this every year, here are a few reminders:

The leaves are making food to feed next year's flowers. Don't cut them off, tie them up, or otherwise disturb them.

Feel free to cut the flowers. It's better to cut them for bouquets than to pick them, since sometimes people yank a little harder than they meant to, and pull the bulbs up out of the ground.

Enjoy the fruits of your labors—a little work in the fall made a lot of beauty this spring!

What's Coming Up
March, April, May

March	7-14	**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW**
	14	**COMMUNITY GARDENERS' GALA** at the Flower Show
	15-18	**Pruning Week with Urban Gardening** For dates and locations, call 560-4167
	20	**Garden Structures -- Watering, Raised Beds, etc.** 9:30 AM Penn State Urban Gardening 4601 Market St 560-4167
	27	**Planting & Pests for Beginners** 9:30 AM Penn State Urban Gardening 4601 Market St 560-4167
April	3	**Container Gardening for Beginners** 9:30 AM Penn State Urban Gardening 4601 Market St 560-4167
May	1	**SPRING GARDEN SALE**
	19-20	**Junior Flower Show** First Bank, 3rd Street between Chestnut & Walnut Watch your April **PG News** for details.
June	10	**Last chance to register for the City gardens Contest**

SPRING IS SPRUNG, so get your tools out of storage, waterproof your boots, and clean the bags of seed packets out of the back porch.

Many people have taken to starting their gardens on Good Friday, maybe because it's the first official holiday of the spring season. But Good Friday comes early in April this year, so don't yield to temptation. IT REALLY IS TOO SOON TO PUT OUT YOUR TOMATOES!!! It's also too soon for beans, sweet potatoes, peppers, and eggplant.

WHAT TO PLANT IN MARCH

From seed	carrots	Put out transplants:	broccoli
	beets		cabbage
	leeks		cauliflower
	lettuce		celery
	onion sets		chives
	peas		collards
	radishes		leeks
	spinach		parsley
	turnips		

1993 FLOWER SHOW LECTURES & DEMONSTRATIONS

WHERE: all sessions will take place in the third floor Auditorium, located adjacent to the top of the escalators behind the Marketplace area. Photographing Flowers workshops are held in Room "B"; all other lectures are in Room "A."

This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted daily on pillars throughout the Show floor.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

11:00 **DRIED ARRANGEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN FLAIR** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside

11:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS**
Workshop by Camera Shops, Inc and Minolta.

12:15 **GREENHOUSE GARDENING** Shane Smith, Cheyenne Botanic Garden Book signing after.

1:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS**
Workshop by Camera Shops, Inc.

1:15 **COMBINING ROSES AND PERENNIALS**
Judy McKeon, Rosarian, Morris Arboretum

2:30 **ARRANGING UNUSUAL DRIED FLOWERS**
Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside

2:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS**
Workshop by Camera Shops, Inc.

4:00 **THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND GARDENS** Ian Ross, National Trust for Scotland

MONDAY, MARCH 8

11:00 **ARRANGING WITH DRIED FLOWERS**
Ellen Spector Platt, Meadowlark

12:30 **IKEBANA**
Phyllis Weeks, Ohara School of Ikebana

2:00 **ENVIRONMENTAL GARDENING MADE EASY**
Laurence Sombke, author. Book signing after.

3:30 **THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND GARDENS** Robert Grant, National Trust for Scotland

5:00 **PRINCIPLES OF GARDEN DESIGN**
Carter Van Dyke

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

11:00 **PARTY! PARTY! PARTY!** Kathlene Sullivan, Ridley Park Florist, Inc.; Carolyn Daley Brady, Alvin's Flowers, Broomall; Matthew Falini, Parkside Florist; Andy Lenheney, Newtown Square Flowers.

12:30 **EASY CARE SHADE FLOWERS**
Patricia Taylor, author. Book signing after.

2:00 **KOREAN FLOWER ARRANGING**
Im Wha Kong, International Flower Arranger

3:30 **BACK TIPS FOR GARDENERS**
Jerry Dufour, Staff Therapist, Pennsylvania Hospital Physical Therapy Department

5:00 **IKEBANA**
Mariko Ono, Sogetsu School of Ikebana International

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

11:00 **WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS, SOUP TO NUTS**
Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers & Formal Wear

12:30 **IKEBANA**
Helen Flaig, Ikenobo School of Ikebana International

2:00 **WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS, SOUP TO NUTS**
Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers & Formal Wear

3:30 **THE LIGHTER SIDE OF GARDENING** Mrs. Greenthumbs, Cassandra Danz, author. Book signing.

5:00 **HOUSEPLANTS AND YOUR HEALTH**
Linda Ciccantelli, Magee Rehabilitation Center

6:30 **ITALIAN FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS**
Mimma and Aldo Alberti, San Remo, Italy

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

11:00 **ARRANGING CUT FLOWERS**
Fran Hammond, Valley Green Flowers, Springhouse, PA.
Cheryl Turkot, The Flower Cart, Erdenheim, PA.

12:30 **FLOWER ARRANGING AROUND THE WORLD**
Fran Hammond, Valley Green Flowers, Springhouse, PA.
Cheryl Turkot, The Flower Cart, Erdenheim, PA.

2:00 **THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND: RESTORATION, RENOVATION & RENEWAL**
Robert Grant, National Trust for Scotland

3:30 **IKEBANA**
Bernice Makin, Ohara School of Ikebana

5:00 **GIFTS FROM YOUR GARDEN**
Suzanne Frutig Bales, author. Book signing after.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

11:00 **COUNTRY & EUROPEAN STYLE CUT FLOWERS**
FTD Florists

12:30 **IKEBANA INTERPRETED BY FOUR SCHOOLS**
Lorraine Toji (Sogetsu), Deborah Scott (Ichiyo), Ronell Douglass (Ohara), Catherine Kidd (Ikenobo)

2:00 **ARRANGING CUT FLOWERS**
FTD Florists

3:30 **ARRANGING IN CREATIVE CONTAINERS**
Bernice Makin, Master Flower Arranger

5:00 **PITMEDDEN GARDEN AND ITS FORMALITY**
Ian Ross, National Trust for Scotland

7:00 **WATER GARDENING CLINIC—POOLS, PONDS & PLANTS** Don Schnoor, Lotus of America

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

11:00 **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF EDINBURGH**

12:30 **FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS**
FTD Florists

2:00 **IKEBANA**
Midori Tanimune, Sogetsu School of Ikebana

3:30 **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND**
Robert Grant, National Trust for Scotland

5:00 **FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS**
FTD Florists

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 **DRIED FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS**
Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside

12:30 **IKEBANA**
Yuriko Moriuchi, Ikenobo School of Ikebana

2:00 **COUNTRY & EUROPEAN STYLE DRIED FLOWERS** Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside

3:30 **AMATEUR WATER GARDENING**
Fred Weiss & Joan Nangle, Water Garden Society

The Camera Shop, Inc., along with **Minolta** and **Kodak**, will also sponsor workshops at the Flower Show. **Photographing Flowers** will be held each day Mon, March 8 thru Sun, March 14 at 11:30, 12:30 and 2:00 in room B of the Lecture Hall. Times are slightly different on Sun, March 7, and are listed in the above schedule.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

I first met **Hayward Ford** about eight years ago, just as he was installed as president of **Aspen Farms** Community Garden and as member of the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's** Philadelphia Green Advisory Board. Hayward has played an active part in PHS over the years. He recently took on the job of Chair for the Advisory Board.

As soon as Hayward joined our circle, he was hooked on the fun, learning and people he met alon~ the way. For the past three years, Hayward has bee intimately involved in the Window section of the Harvest Show. He appreciates people's design expertise. Hayward loves to learn about different growing techniques from people who enter the show. Some work and some don't, but he has fun trying them out.

Hayward has been a gardener for most of his life. As he says, "I'd feel lost without it." He rises to the challenge when faced by tough growing conditions. He gives away most of what he grows, hanging bags of fruits and vegetables on the garden fence. He nurtures his pet pumpkins, eager to grow bigger and better ones in time for the next Harvest Show.

Back in 1988, Hayward and the Aspen Farm gardeners participated in a special project with PHS and the **University of Pennsylvania**. Graduate students in Landscape Architecture were asked to develop plans to enhance the community garden's design. The gardeners invited students to spend a weekend in their homes to become better acquainted with the neighborhood. Hayward fondly remembers the gardener-student collaboration as one in which everyone learned. The process was a success, making Aspen Farms even more beautiful than before.

Last October, Hayward traveled to Denver to his first **American Community Gardening Association** (ACGA) conference. After a few days, he felt like an ACGA veteran. People from all parts of the country asked questions that Hayward was proud to answer about Philadelphia's gardening programs and about Aspen Farms. He just about burst his buttons over the recognition that came to Aspen Farms because of the garden's picture in a *National Geographic* article.

Hayward is also a busy board member of the **Neighborhood Gardens Association** (NGA). He sees NGA as one of his most prized affiliations, because garden preservation is a high priority. "How terrible it would be for so many people to work so hard to create a garden, then lose it."

Aware of all the positive results gained from the efforts of so many dedicated people working together to make and save gardens, Hayward is glad to be part of it all.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

March 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Vol. 15, No. 3 April 1993

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

by Kate Stover

Currently on display at the **Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP)** is an exhibition about Philadelphia's history. Titled, "**Common Ground: Philadelphia's Neighborhoods,**" this exhibition chronicles the development of the city's neighborhoods from field and forests to roads and rowhouses. Although the exhibition examines the effects of industry, increased population, immigration, and crime, a major focus is the change of the city's streetscapes and landscapes.

Many early developers thought open land was boundless; some neighborhoods such as those in the far northeast remained as farmland well into the 1950's. Gradually though, as the city grew and open spaces became less frequent, preservation and creation of special zones designated for open spaces became a concern. As the "Common Ground" exhibition documents, groups such as the "Vacant Lots Cultivation Association" were organized in the late nineteenth century to beautify the city. On a more contemporary note, the exhibition also examines the current efforts to make the city's neighborhoods more liveable by using plants and trees. Photographs (courtesy of PHS) of current community gardens illustrate the work of Philadelphia Green. Two of the gardens featured are at Gray's Ferry Avenue and 2801-03 W. Diamond Street.

In order to focus on today's neighborhoods, HSP has sponsored a series of community Welcome Days that showcase successful neighborhood programs. During the November Welcome Day, **James Flaherty**, a member of the **Chestnut Hill Association's Street Tree Program**, brought diagrams and other information about his project to encourage other neighborhoods to look after their trees. In December **Hayward Ford** was on hand at the Welcome Day honoring West Philadelphia neighborhoods. (His **Aspen Farm** green tomato ketchup'was the hit of the day.)

Libby Goldstein represented the **Southwark/Queen Village Garden** in January, and encouraged other neighborhoods to create gardens of their own. In February, the **Francisville Greene Countrie Towne** sign was displayed along with a flyer for **Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne** activities.

"Common Ground: Philadelphia's Neighborhoods" is open through May 1, 1993. Gallery hours at 1300 Locust Street are 10: 00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Wednesday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is $2.50 for adults, $1.50 for senior citizens and children under 18. Call 732-0398 for more information.

Tree lovers start young at ***The Academy of Natural Sciences****. For these and other Arbor/Earth Month activities, turn to the special Branching Out insert inside this newsletter.*

City Hall Planting

The PennsylvaniaHorticultural Society is sponsoring the second annual **City Hall Planting**, scheduled for mid-May. If you would like to volunteer, call Kate Swartz at 625-8280.

This project is being funded by **PNC Bank.**

Belgian Blocks Wanted

Please donate for children's garden currently under construction. Call Tom or Eileen at 625-8280.

Children's Gardening Conference

August 12-14, 1993
Washington, DC

Youth educators, horticulturists, horticultural therapists, garden designers, landscape architects, environmentalists, community youth leaders and others will share innovative and practical ideas on how to create gardening programs within schools, public gardens, and community youth programs.

For more information and a registration packet, contact:

Maureen Heffernan,
American Horticultural Society
1-800-777-7931.

PhilAbundance

Do you grow more vegetables than your family can eat? Would you like to donate some to those less fortunate than yourself? Would you consider planting an extra row of vegetables in your garden to help feed the hungry? If you'd like to help **PhilAbundance** and the **Share Our Success** program, please call Jim or Sally at Philadelphia Green, 625-8280. We'll tell you what you can do to help.

Crops to Plant in April

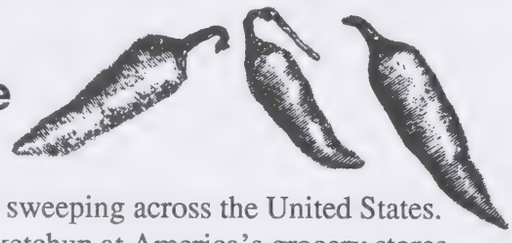
FROM SEED (outdoors)

beets
carrots
corn
dill
gladiolus
kale
lettuce
mustard
onions
parsnips
peas
potatoes
radishes
spinach
turnips

FROM TRANSPLANTS (outdoors)

broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
clematis
daylilies
fruit trees
hardy herbs
leeks
lettuce
mint
pansies
raspberries
roses
strawberries
thyme

Year of the Pepper



Peppermania is sweeping across the United States. Salsa is outselling ketchup at America's grocery stores. You can even find earrings, napkin rings and Christmas lights shaped like peppers! And now, the National Garden Bureau has named 1993 as **"The Year of the Pepper."** The public's fondness for peppers in dishes from Caribbean, Thai, Korean, Cajun, Tex-Mex and other cuisines is surely one reason for the popularity of this vegetable. Increased interest in a vegetable always leads to an upsurge in the number of people wanting to grow it for themselves. Fortunately, peppers are prolific, easy to grow, don't take up a lot of space and can be very ornamental. They range in heat from the mild bell and paprika types to the habanero - the world's hottest pepper. Peppers are healthy to eat, easy to grow and so versatile they can be used in the kitchen as a vegetable or as an herb or spice. They can be grown in pots on a city patio and will be perfectly at home if planted in a flower bed or herb garden instead of a vegetable garden.

And what is the difference between the names"peppers," "chile peppers," "chili peppers" and "chiles"? The confusion goes back to Columbus. He mistakenly thought these interesting plants, unknown to Europeans, were related to black pepper. The misnomer has stayed with us, but the use of the words "chile" and "chile pepper" is increasing. Whatever you call them, this is their year.

Branching Out

Celebrate Trees! April is Arbor Month

Can you imagine your city without trees? William Penn, Philadelphia's founder, insisted that we preserve trees to ensure a healthy quality of life. Over the years, people ignored Penn's advice and cleared the forests to build the city and surrounding suburbs. Today, more people recognize that trees create green spaces in our communities.

Trees growing in small parks, along streets, and in the gardens of neighborhoods provide a mosaic of green landscapes within a community. We call it the "urban forest." Trees provide benefits beyond beauty, such as moderating the effects of heat, sound, air pollution, excess storm water runoff, and soil erosion. Trees also provide living space for wildlife. However, the single greatest threat to urban trees is people.

How can we help? People who care for trees don't walk on and compact the soil above the roots. They don't carve initials into the bark or tear off branches or leaves. People who care for trees would never hammer nails into trees. Nor would they pour motor oil or spread de-icing salts nearby. People who care for trees would avoid hitting a tree with a vehicle or lawnmower which could only damage the bark. Trees thrive when people water them regularly. They love it when we mulch around them to prevent weed growth and keep soil moist. We can loosen compacted soil to allow water and air to reach tree roots.

Planting and maintaining an urban forest is a long term commitment that depends on PEOPLE!

Citizen Tree Corps Calls For Volunteers

Groups and Individuals Welcome!

- Learn to care for trees in <u>your own</u> neighborhood
- Participate in seasonal tree-care activities.
- Learn basic pruning and tree pit care.
- Have fun with other people who like trees!

For more information, call Mindy at 625-8280. Sessions start in early summer

TREE-MENDOUS FEATS

TREE-MENDOUS FEATS

You use only one side of your paper. Try REUSING

Go back one

Young trees are hurt by weeds and grass that use up water. You weed a tree pit.
Advance one space

Which leaf is which?
spruce
oak
maple

FINISH

Pretend to be a creature that lives in a tree.
If identifiable, win an extra turn.

Name 5 things you see that came from a tree

TREE-MENDOUS TRIVIA

You throw
in a tre

Lose a

You are a
Hallow
Give you
impres

Make a p
to help
you k
Write it

Treemendous Feats

You are worried about Global warming.

What can you do?

A bird has built a nest in your tree.

What do you do?

You want to help save trees.

What are three things you can do to use less paper?

Someone you know is carving their name into a tree.

What can you do?

You buy a soda at the corner store. The cashier asks if you want a bag.

What do you say?

The soil around your tree is filled with weeds and grass.

What can you do?

It's a very hot day. One side of your street has trees and the other one doesn't.

Which side will you and your friends sit on?

You see kids grabbing on the branches of your tree and hanging from them.

What do you do?

The soil around your tree is very hard from people walking on it - no air or water can get to the roots.

What can you do?

There are earthworms in your tree pit.

What should you do?

A new tree has been planted in front of your house.

How should you care for it?

Your tree is getting banged up by car doors and bikes.

What can you do?

Treemendous Trivia

Three things we can do to help the planet are:
1. Re_____
2. Re_____
3. Re_____ _____

How do trees help us breathe?

Name three products of cut down trees.

What are three things that trees need to survive?

How do trees drink in water?

What does a tree's bark do?

What harmful gas do trees absorb?

Where is chorophyll found in trees?

What are three things that can live in a tree?

What is photosynthesis?

Name the three main parts of a tree.

What do the roots of a tree need?

Name three categories of trees.

Name three gifts of living trees.

START

You help cool the planet by planting a tree. *Advance one space*

TREE-MENDOUS TRIVIA

You damage a tree's bark

Lose a turn

What is the difference between a deciduous tree and an evergreen tree?

Name 3 kinds of trees. Which one is your favorite and Why?

You help a tree get water and oxygen by cultivating the soil around its roots. *Advance one*

TREE-MENDOUS FEATS

You pass a tree and tear off a few leaves *Go back one space*

promise a tree know. t down

a tree for ween. ur best ssion

w trash ee pit

a turn

For Playing Directions:

See box on back of this page.

Arbor/Earth Month Calendar of Events

March 15-April 2 **"Celebrate Trees"** The tree exhibit will be at the Gallery at Market East. Shoppers will be invited to play Environmental Jeopardy at 1:00 and 2:00 PM on March 23, 25, and 30.

April 17 **Trees on Walnut Street** Play Environmental Jeopardy
Borders Bookstore 11:00 AM 1727 Walnut Street
Nature Company 1:30 PM 1701 Walnut Street

19-25 **Academy of Natural Sciences** Celebrate Arbor Week at the Academy with a week's worth of events: Play "Environmental Jeopardy ," sign-up your class or group to play the life-size board game about trees "Tree-mendous Feats", plant tree seeds to take home and nurture, and on Saturday and Sunday learn tree care techniques with a hands on workshop.

29 **Fairhill Community Arbor Week Celebration**
Fairhill School, Taller Puertoricano, Julia DeBurgos Bilingual Middle Magnet School.

30 **Arbor Day!!!**

May 1 **Philadelphia Green's Spring Garden Day Sale** Fairmount Park Horticultural Center. Pre-orders and cash & carry flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees.

2 **Earth Day Celebration** at Memorial Hall West Fairmount Park. The theme for this year is "**Working For Change**". PHS is sponsoring the Parks & Open Space tent on the fairway. Come out for music, fun, a pasta challenge, children's programs, or just to show your support.

Tree-mendous Feats -- Directions

What You Need: Assemble a few simple pieces before playing. You need:
a dice or a spinner
tree seeds, beans, or pennies for playing pieces
the board (included in this newsletter)
question sheet for Tree-mendous Feats and Tree-mendous Trivia (included in this newsletter)

How to Play: Players throw the die or spin to move their pieces around the board. Each square puts to the test the player's knowledge of trees and what helps or hurts them. If a player lands on Tree-mendous Feats or Tree-mendous Trivia, they answer the next question or situation from the question page. **Tree-mendous Feats** is played at assemblies on a life-size board, and players are their own pieces.. Appropriate for kids age 8-12 years.

On the Vine

Garden Day Sale --May 1st

Arbor Month Price Break
Market Packs are now $1.00
Please check your order forms
to see what veggies and flowers are available.

New at the Garden Day Sale

ZOO DOO: Until recently, the huge piles of animal waste generated each day at the nation's zoos were relegated with pinched noses to piles that ended up in city landfills. But in line with the rising tide of environmentalism, zoo keepers and entrepreneurs are turning this once troublesome waste into compost for eager buyers. "Gardeners really like it," said Pierce Ledbetter, the founder of Zoo Doo. He said the product was twice as rich in nitrogen as cattle or horse manures, but not so strong that it can burn a plant, the way chicken manures do. Zoo Doo compost is made of the manures of plant-eating animals, mostly rhinoceros and elephant. The animal feeds at the zoo, unlike farm feeds, keep the manures free of both weed seeds and hormones. Zoo Doo is allowed to compost or decompose for a minimum of six months, by which time it has a coffee ground-like consistency and no detectable odor.

BIO NEEM: The product is made from the African Neem Tree and is a broad range organic insecticide. It can be used on trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. Bio Neem effectively controls mealy bugs, aphids, whitefly, weevils, leaf miner and Gypsy moths. Bio Neem will not harm honeybees or earthworms. It should not be used on edibles.

EARTHWORM CASTINGS: This slow release plant food and soil conditioner will not burn plants or leach out of soil. The castings can be used on anything, edible or ornamental.

WATER ABSORBING CRYSTALS: This non-toxic polymer absorbs 400 times its weight in water. When mixed into soil, the crystals absorb and then release water as the plants need it. The crystals break down into water, carbon dioxide and ammonium. Great for windowboxes and wine barrels or in the vegetable garden.

VERANDA TERRA COTTA COLOR PATIO BOX: These boxes are made of high impact plastic with bottom drainage. They are 10 inches deep, 9 1/2 inches wide and 26 inches long. Ideal for City Gardens Contest displays.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The Henry A. Brown Elementary School recently won an Eisenhower grant to support a multicultural study program at the school. With a mix of Asian, Hispanic, African-American and white students, there is need to cultivate an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect.

Principal **Susan Shucker** and her teachers called on us to assist in one component of their study activities relating to growing food plants from around the world. Teachers could choose to participate in two staff development sessions which would be led by **Eugene Reeves**, our Youth Program Specialist. **Ellen Jonas** would coordinate the installation of light units with **Rick Levins**, school custodian, for fourteen classrooms

Gene and Susan set the first session in late February. Once the teachers settled in, Susan reviewed the goals of the multi-cultural gardening project and turned the session over to Gene. He talked about starting seeds and how the warm school environment would invite rapid growth. Gene advised the teachers that their biggest challenge would not be germination. With the seed starter kits and light units they'd be using, germination would be close to 100%. They would be challenged to figure how much water and light the plants would need for balanced growth. Gene also recommended they wait until the seedlings had several pairs of leaves and off to a good healthy start before assigning individual plants to specific students. In this way, no student could be branded a failure because his or her plant had died.

Gene shared stories about the other youth groups he'd worked with over the past year and a half. He insisted that everyone at Brown could be just as successful. He also related that he started learning about plants from different cultures when he began working with the **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne** and was told about plants many of them had grown in Puerto Rico.This year, school and youth groups are growing rice for the **Junior Flower Show** in recognition of the place rice has in the diets of many cultures.

Gene suggested that the teachers encourage their students to draw their parents into the project. Hopefully they might be willing to share seeds of their favorite foods. At the end of the session, the teachers gathered by the bin of soil and the stacks of seed starting kits, asking questions and sharing information with one another. They were all set to get their hands in the dirt, leading their students to explore the wonderful world of gardening at their fingertips.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Vol. 15, No. 4 May 1993

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ESCANDALO

Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne gardeners are in the midst of planning their dedication celebration scheduled for September 17 and 18. The festival is named "Escandalo," meaning something wonderful that people will talk about for a very long time. The festivities for this first Hispanic Greene Countrie Towne will focus on its culture, with local people preparing special ethnic foods and performing traditional dances. Twenty children will wear brightly colored costumes created by parents and members of the planning committee. Over the past few months, the children have been hard at work in Norris Square's after school program, creating the most incredible party favors, a part of any traditional celebration.

The main festivities will be held in Norris Square Park. Walking tours of the neighborhood will give visitors a chance to see the many gardens and green blocks that have been created in the past four years. One very special garden called "Las Parcelas" contains a brightly painted "casita" or little house where neighborhood children learn about life in Puerto Rico.

The celebration planners acknowledge the tremendous inspiration they received from **Strawberry Mansion** gardeners during the 1992 celebration in that community. The committee intends to keep up the strong tradition of excellence that has been passed on through the 11 years of Greene Countrie Towne dedication festivities.

Bache-Martin Career Day

Bache-Martin School, 22nd & Brown Sts. in Francisville, recently included Horticulture as a potential profession at its Career Day. Philadelphia Green's **Janet Carter** and **Deborah Hall** were on hand to tell students about the skills needed to get involved in the Florist business.

Using hands-on flower arranging, two groups of 11 children each investigated how the skills they use each day in school relate to those skills needed to run a Flower Shop. The students recognized the need for reading, writing, arithmetic and computer skills so they could make orders, keep records and handle the money involved. Other suggested subjects were science to know how plants grow and speaking skills to work with customers.

Career Day is held annually to help students understand the availability and importance of different careers. Career presenters included several who had graduated from Bache-Martin - a doctor, a fashion designer and a PG staff member (our own Janet Carter, whose grandchildren now attend the school.)

There were so many presenters this year (more than eighty!) that they doubled up on space. Some presentations were videotaped for later review by students who couldn't attend all the sessions.

Calling All Volunteers!!
City Hall Planting
May 13
See announcement inside

A Message from the Philadelphia Water Department

We tend to take our drinking water for granted. When we turn on our faucet to fill a glass or wash vegetables, we expect our water to be clean and safe. In fact, we seldom think about our drinking water quality. This is a compliment to the water systems in the Philadelphia area and throughout the country that have provided safe water for many years.

But there are some times when we should think about the safety of our drinking water. It is possible for each of us to contribute to unsafe conditions that can contaminate the water in our own homes or even in our neighborhood.

Something so simple as a garden hose can be a source of contamination. Leaving a hose running in a water drum, pool, or even a puddle can lead to a condition called "backflow." Backflow occurs when water is pulled "back" into the system of the house or neighborhood from another source, such as the barrel, pool or puddle. In this way, chemicals like pesticides, as well as disease-causing microorganisms can be brought from standing water into the home and into the neighborhood watering system.

How does the water get pulled back? Normally the water pressure from the faucet is high and water is pushed out. But once in a great while the water pressure gets so low that the water flow changes direction and is pulled back. The water pressure can get low when there is a very high use of water nearby. Low pressure can occur within a home due to high water use at other fixtures and appliances. Low pressure can occur in the City water system due to the heavy use of fire hydrants.

Backflow from hoses attached to fire hydrants has caused contamination of whole neighborhood water systems in Philadelphia. These hydrants were not being used to fight fires, but were attached by businesses and individuals using the hydrants as a regular source. Since fire hydrants connect directly to the public drinking water system, any backflow at a fire hydrant directly affects not just one house but many.

Luckily, backflow in your home can be avoided even with the lowest water pressure conditions. Hoses should not be left running in a tub or other container. To fill a barrel or pool, hold or position the hose so it is always above the water. When using a hose for watering, attach a nozzle that shuts off the water when it's not in use. This will prevent puddling and the backflow from those puddles.

Fire hydrants were designed to fight fires and not to provide water here and there. In some cases, however, no other water source is available. When water is taken from a fire hydrant, a device called a "backflow preventer" should be used. This device prevents water from being drawn back into the public water system if the water pressure becomes low. In future articles we will explain how a backflow preventer works and why you may need to know more about them.

Barry Davis
City Solicitor's Office
Philadelphia Water Department

Clippings

Community News

Thanks to the Philadelphia Green Flower Show Exhibit Committee for their dedication in putting the exhibit together. Members of the committee are **Gloria Trower**, chair, **Roxanne Christensen**, **JoAnn Fishburn**, **Hayward Ford**, **Edna Jones**, **Frank Keiser**, **Jim LaRosa**, **Steve Maurer**, **Jim Norris**, and **Frank Stefano**. Special thanks to the many volunteers who shared their gardening experiences with visitors during the show.

Youth Program Specialist **Eugene Reeves** is working on a project at the **HMS School** in West Philadelphia. HMS students have cerebral palsy which affects their movements. Gene has invented ways for these children to do "hands-on gardening" which get around their physical difficulties. As a result, they can enjoy working in the dirt. Gene started out with a GrowLab set-up for gardening under lights where students planted the large seeds of scarlet runner beans. However, smaller seeds presented a problem. So Gene embedded them in clay to make marble-size pellets which the youth could handle. By summer, students and teachers will transplant the GrowLab plants into raised beds designed for wheelchairs in the garden.

Ingrid Montgomery, PG Advisory Board member on leave, wrote to **Blaine Bonham**, PG's executive director, about her challenging work in The Gambia, West Africa. She is one of 11 Americans who are the first participants in the Teachers for Africa Program, sponsored by the **International Foundation for Education and Self-Help**. Ingrid teaches 7th grade science at one of the country's oldest schools. She is now in her fourth month in the program and says she feels "much more confident about finishing the course" which ends in July. She describes The Gambia as a country that is "as like paradise as any place in the world," and sends best wishes to everyone involved with Philadelphia Green.

Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne gardeners had a wonderful dedication last September, but they are not resting on their laurels. Over the winter, they attended workshops on seed starting and plant propagation led by Education Specialist **Ignatius Weekes**. Many gardeners are growing kitchen herbs and flowers under lights and on window sills. They renewed their spirits at a meeting on April 6th where they saw slides of last year's successful gardens. They gathered lots of ideas for this year and "caught up" with people they hadn't seen over the winter. Area residents can buy annuals and vegetables at the first annual Strawberry Mansion plant sale on May 29th. For more information, call **Lenora Jackson-Evans** at 236-8444.

Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** and Neighborhood Coordinator **Verlene Johnson** led a successful design meeting in March for **Penn Towne** residents; Penn Towne is a low-income housing complex run by **Friends Rehabilitation Program** located near 7th and Fairmount Streets. About twenty people attended and suggested ideas for their neighborhood open space. Several people won plants and garden tools as door prizes.

Kathryn Newland is our Project Coordinator collaborating with **Penn's Landing Corporation** and local artist **James Fuhrman** to beautify a strip of land along Delaware Avenue. This area between Chestnut and Market will feature the popular Ribbon of Gold wildflower mix interspersed with bands of sunflowers.

Staff Stuff

Philadelphia Green's tree people, **Mindy Maslin**, **Susan Phillips** and **Jose Garcia**, attended a conference sponsored by the **U.S. Forest Service** on the importance of volunteer labor to non-profit organizations. Mindy is the Tree Education Specialist and Susan is the Tree Program Coordinator. Congratulations to Jose, former Tree Program Intern, who is now the full-time Assistant Tree Coordinator.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Flower Show Thank You

With all the planning that goes into the Philadelphia Flower Show each year, we never like to use the big S word — Snow. Yet this year, the biggest blizzard we have all seen in a long time caused an untimely end to what has been described as the best show yet. Up to closing time Saturday afternoon, record crowds had enjoyed "the biggest indoor flower show in the world."

One of the hardest decisions we made over that weekend was cancelling the Gardeners' Gala Brunch, one of the highlights of the show every year. Though our guests were disheartened by the news, many people offered their unused brunch tickets as donations to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. We say thank you for your generosity. As you know, proceeds from the Flower Show support the Philadelphia Green program. We look forward to welcoming you to the brunch at next year's show entitled "Islands in the Sun."

Elaine Bonham

Executive Director, Philadelphia Green
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Azalea Garden Pruning Demonstration

Dale Nemec, groundskeeper at Friends Hospital, will be our guest speaker in the Azalea Garden on **Saturday, May 22.** He will demonstrate the pruning of azaleas, with hands-on pruning practice for all participants. This demonstration is scheduled as part of the May workday for the volunteer **Azalea Gardeners,** who meet the last Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Turn to the last page for a profile of our dedicated Azalea Gardeners in "Digging in the Dirt."

Have a Gardening Question??? Call the HOTLINES

PHS Hotline
922-8043
All gardening questions
Mon-Fri 9:30 - 12:30

Penn State's GardenPhone
560-4167
Vegetable questions
Mon-Fri 9-4
Ornamentals
Wednesdays 9-12

Urban Gardening Lending Library

The **Penn State Urban Gardening Program** has a lending library of garden videos now available to the public. Watch **Jeff Ball** demonstrate his many gardening tips and tricks at your leisure in his Yardening videotape program. Yardening is a new kind of gardening program that teaches you to garden more successfully with less effort, by combining modern scientific methods with time-proven techniques from all over the world. This video program has been endorsed by the National Gardening Association.

Titles include **"How to Grow Flowers", "How to Grow Healthy Houseplants", "How to Grow Cool-Weather Vegetables", "How to Design and Build a Vegetable Garden"** and **"How to Design a Flower Garden."**

Call **Monica** at **560-4167** if you would like to borrow a tape.

Junior Flower Show Dates

Location:	First Bank of the United States 3rd Street, Between Chestnut & Walnut	
KIDS: Bring Entries	**Monday, May 17**	**11:00 am to 5:00 pm**
Junior Show Open	Wednesday, May 19	9:30 am to 5:00 pm
	Thursday, May 20	9:30 am to 6:30 pm
Removal of Entries	Friday, May 21	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Outdoor Sculpture Gets Spring Cleaning

Philadelphia boasts one of the largest and finest collections of outdoor sculpture in the nation; it also suffers from harmful concentrations of "acid rain." Concerned about the condition of the city's outdoor sculpture, the **Fairmount Park Art Association** took action in 1982, initiating a sculpture conservation program and establishing an ongoing maintenance program. Now a familiar sight that signals the advent of spring, this year's conservation effort will include the maintenance of twenty- five sculptures by the middle of May. In addition to this project, the Art Association, in cooperation with the **City's Art Commission,** will coordinate the local portion of a national project intended to raise public awareness. As one of the largest cultural volunteer projects ever undertaken in the U.S., **Save Outdoor Sculpture!** , better known as **SOS!**, will enlist thousands of volunteers to locate, survey and report on the condition of the nation's tens of thousands of public sculptures. These public artworks range from 18th century revolutionary war heroes to abstract contemporary work on public plazas. Collected information will be fed into a computer database at the **National Museum of American Art** in Washington, DC to create a permanent, comprehensive record of the nation's outdoor sculpture.

Don't Miss It!!!!!

City Gardens Contest registration deadline is June 10.
Have you entered your garden, yard or block??
Call 625-8280 to register.

Free Seeds

The **America the Beautiful Fund** provides FREE SEEDS to community groups for the price of postage. Requests of more than 50 packets must be accompanied by a description of your project.

For more information, contact:
America the Beautiful Fund
219 Shoreham Building,
Washington, DC 20005
202-638-1649

Children, Plants & Gardens: Educational Opportunities

August 12-14, 1993
National 4-H Conference Center
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Make plans to attend this national symposium to help create more educational programs for children in Pre-K through 8th grade. Learn about the plants, educational programs, and garden designs that capture the interest of children. Conference highlights include major keynote speakers, workshops, tours of children's gardens at schools, public gardens, and community sites, children's presentations and social events. For more information, please call the conference organizers at the **American Horticultural Society,** (800) 777-7931.

Coming Up in May

May 1 **Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale** Horticultural Center, Fairmount Park
10 AM to 4 PM For info, call 625-8280

May 2 **Earth SunDay '93** Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park
12 noon to 5:30 PM For info, call Andrew Altman at 567-5093

May 8-9 **Mother Earth Days** South Street
11:00 AM to 7 :00 PM For info, call the Festival Office at 238-0402

May 13 **City Hall in Bloom**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM For info, call Kate Swartz at 625-8280

May l5 **Urban Gardening Program Earth Day Celebration**
Recycling, mulching, water gardening and a tour of the demo garden
UGP Demo Garden, 48th St. north of Market
For more info, call the GardenPhone, 560-4167

May 17 -21 **Junior Flower Show** -- 1st Bank, 3rd St below Chestnut
Mon., May 17, 11 AM to 5 PM Registration
Wed., May 19, 9:30 - 5:00 Open to the Public
Thurs., May 20, 9:30 - 6:30 Open to the Public
Fri., May 21, 9:00 - 4:00 Entry Removal

May 20 **Start a Water Garden** South Kensington NAC Office, 1511 N. Philip St.
10:30 AM For info, call the UGP Garden Phone, 560-4167

May 22 **Azalea Garden Workday/Pruning Workshop** Fairmount Park
9:00 AM to l2 noon For more info, call Kate Swartz at 625-8280

Planting from Seed in May
beans
corn
squash & pumpkins
cucumbers
herbs
annuals
swiss chard

Transplanting in May
tomatoes
peppers
eggplant
collards
sweet potatoes
annual flowers
perennials

Gardening Activities
fertilize bulbs
prune spring flowering trees and shrubs after bloom
stake tall and floppy plants
plant summer flowering bulbs
deadhead bulbs, annuals and perennials

City Hall In Bloom

The planting of 6,000 flowers around City Hall
is a joint project of
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
PNC Bank
The Fairmount Park Commission
and
The City of Philadelphia

Thursday, May 13, 1993

Join us as a volunteer
by returning the coupon below or calling Kate at 625-8280

City Hall in Bloom
Send to: Kate Swartz
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

I would like to help plant annuals at City Hall on:

_____ Thursday, May 13 9:30 -11:30

_____ Thursday, May 13 1:00 - 3:00

_____ I am available for the RAIN DATE: Friday, May 14

NAME:_____ PHONE #:_____

ADDRESS:_____ZIP_____

RSVP by May 1st

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Three years ago I moved into a city apartment. Without even sills for window boxes, my gardener's fingers itched. Then I discovered the **Azalea Gardeners**. I spent the next year gardening along with other volunteers in one of Fairmount Park's treasures.

One member of that gardening crew was **Marc Zaharchuk**, now Chair of the Azalea Gardeners. Marc grew up in Fairmount, the neighborhood adjacent to the Art Museum, Waterworks and Azalea Garden; gardens were part of his heritage. Marc has early memories of evening visits with his family to the ribbon of park by the river. He vividly recalls dreams of being a Japanese gardener.

Marc joined the Azalea Gardeners about the time of the garden's renovation by PHS four years ago. Already active with the **Fairmount Parents, Business and Neighbors Association**, Marc liked the idea of doing something for his community, while he gardened and learned new skills.

Marc has gained garden savvy through the monthly Saturday work sessions and expert-led workshops. The first time he received training on pruning, Marc went home and provided first-aid to a neighbor's tree (with that person's permission). Proper gardening practices like pruning, fertilizing and soil preparation are as much a part of his tool kit as pruners, shovel and trowel.

The Azalea Gardeners are a dependable bunch of folks. Nine o'clock Saturday morning, coffee in hand. Rain or shine. Rain makes them smile; it saves on watering. Only mud, after hours of rain, can stop them in their tracks.

Marc savors the camaraderie that has grown within the group. People help maintain the Garden's beauty, and have fun. **Karen** and **Harry Bower** come month after month. They live at a distance, in Glenside, and demonstrate that caring for the Azalea Garden is a labor of love. **Connie Rice**, an educator and community activist, loves to dig in the dirt. **Melba Axelrod**, **Lee Gutman**, and **Nancy Cunningham** are neighbors whose tiny rowhouse gardens urge them out into the Azalea Garden. **Kate Swartz** from PHS coordinates the volunteer activities. Connie, Melba and Lee are also part of the legion caring for the **Ribbon of Gold Garden** in front of the old Eastern State Penitentiary nearby.

PHS donated the Azalea Garden to the City in 1952. The Garden is part of our city's garden history. Marc and his cohorts are the Garden keepers. They celebrate the rebirth of the Azalea Garden each time they lend a hand. They share in the nurturing, warmth and recreation of spirit within the garden. You're welcome to join them the last Saturday of every month, 9:00 sharp.

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

May 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's

PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Vol. 15, No. 5 June 1993

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Welcome New Groups!

On behalf of all the seasoned Philadelphia Green gardeners, we bid warm welcome to the many new faces in community greening projects this spring. Neighborhoods all around the city are bursting with gardens. Some people are growing their own food for the very first time. In others, annual and perennial flowers are glowing against the background of attractive trees and shrubs. A number of block groups have started growing flowers in containers along the sidewalks in their neighborhoods. We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Lotscapes

1721 W. Montgomery Ave	Wyn Postell
2609 Germantown Ave.	Joan Berry
1141 E. Columbia Ave.	Louis Chiulli
512-16 Manton St.	Lee Tanzio
1253 Palethorp St.	Sophia Grammenos
1252 Palethorp St.	Sophia Karpidis
400-406 Cambria St.	Officer Ortiz
1443 Marston St.	Elizabeth Williams
2151 N. 9th St.	Lennett Davis
1322-24 N. 15th/ 1503 Seybert St.	Randall Pierce
1901 N. Montgomery Ave.	Reginald Kitchen
1318-20 Webster St.	Betty Davis
1837-41 N. 7th St.	Dorothy McKenzie
214 Hermit St.	Gary Gondos
1927-35 Darien St.	Edwin Garcia
1320-22 W. William St.	Barbara Jennings
5013 Pine St.	Rena Ennis
1909-11 Montgomery Ave.	John Dent
2317 Frankford Ave.	Anna Chiglo O'Hora
2001 N. 31st St.	Frank Willis
3045 Berks St.	Arthur Parker
2000 N. 31st St.	Zindaro Lindsey
2611 N. 30th St	Margaret Streeter
2000-02 Nicholas St.	Bishop J.H. Smalls
1814 N. 27th St.	Rick Brown
901-913 N. Orianna St.	Steve Preiss
2720 W. Susquehanna/ 2709-11 French St.	Lenora Jackson-Evans
5401 Laurens St.	Michael Parente
4116 Ogden St.	Bettye Richardson
2236 Manton St.	Valerie McKelvey
NWCorner Limekiln Pike & Wyncote Ave	Fannie Callands
56 25-27 Nelson St.	Diane Goodwin
2401-03 Christian St.	Joan Terrell
2724-28 Ridge Ave.	Alberta Wiggs

Watch for a listing of new Garden Blocks, Street Trees and Norris Square GCT groups in the next issue.

Special Thanks

Many thanks to all of you who supported Philadelphia Green in the Office of Housing and Community Development's budget hearings before City Council in May. We appreciate all who collected signatures to mail to Council members and who came out to the hearings to show your support.

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.,
Executive Director
Philadelphia Green

Blizzard Fund Thanks

Grateful thanks to everyone who has supported PHS in recovering from the Blizzard that closed down Flower Show '93. The revenues the Society generates at the Show are used to support all of our programs, with 84% being spent directly on Philadelphia Green neighborhood and public landscape projects. In a recent newspaper article on not-for-profit organizations, the reporter suggested by inference that the Society should draw monies from its endowment to recover the $510,000 loss caused by the blizzard, rather than appealing to the membership.

The views of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Council and the writers differ on the purpose of an endowment. The Society has carefully built these reserves up over the years. They are an integral part of the Society's financial structure and serve to generate income to help pay for overhead and other general and administrative expenses, which are often not funded by program grants from foundations or the City of Philadelphia. To insure the continued financial viability of the Society, it is our hope that the size of our endowment and the income it generates will continue to grow in future years. Compared to some not-for-profit organizations, our endowment is small: $1 million less than our operating budget - and is subject to the ups and downs of the stock and bond markets. Moreover, income generated from our endowment covers only a portion of overhead and general and administrative expenses.

We'll keep you posted on our progress with the Blizzard Fund in future issues of the **News** and thank you again for your encouragement in a challenging year.

Jane G. Pepper
President,
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

What to Plant in June

When planting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seeds germinate much faster and are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care they get enough water during this stage of development.

From Seed
beans
beets
carrots
collards
corn
cucumbers
pumpkins
squash
herbs
dahlias
marigolds
peanuts
limas
watermelon
Challenge Class seeds

From Plants
broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
celery
cucumbers
eggplant
peppers
tomatoes
sweet potatoes
okra
squash
herbs
perennials
annuals

Don't Miss It!!!!!

City Gardens Contest registration deadline is June 10. Call 625-8280 to register your garden or to be a Contest Judge.

Clippings

Community News

Philadelphia gardeners continue to get national publicity. **Alta Felton** of The Garden of Eatin', **Marina** and **Adariano LaPinia** and neighbors of Fairhill Community Garden, and **Dona Valentina Rios** are shown in beautiful, vibrant full color photographs in the book *From The Good Earth*, by Michael Ableman. The author focuses on farmers and gardeners who grow food in a way that replenishes their communities and the land. Congratulations to Alta on celebrating her 80th birthday in April.

* * * * * * * *

The **Girl Scouts of Narberth Troop # 94** are doing a good deed which will affect the lives of a generation of **Norris Square** children. They are donating $ 2000 from one year of cookie sales to help build the **Norris Square Kinder Garden**. **Jennifer Eastman**, from **Hunter School**, told her friend **Margie Quint** of the need for a play area for kindergarten students. Troop leader Margie discussed the idea with her group and they enthusiastically agreed. In addition to voting to donate their money, these generous Girl Scouts will be involved in the installation of the park. They offered the name "Kinder Garden" and plan to paint a mural on the back fence.

Hard-working volunteers opened the season at the Spring Garden **Ribbon of Gold** on April 24th along with PG staffers **John Gannon**, **Kathryn Newland**, and **Joe Slane**. **Charlie Thomson** organized the crew of **John Bushnell, Mike Gombola, Louise Grassie, Rosemary LaBeree, Art Plaxton, Lois Thomson, Lettie Thall** and her daughter. **Rosina Feldman** and **Nick Johnson** did advance work. The work crew cleaned, mulched, and cultivated the median beds on three blocks of Spring Garden Street. As a result of their hard work, the perennials will be blooming beautifully very soon.

Dave Foresman, from **Longwood Gardens**, gave a slide-talk on the Professional Gardener Training Program at PG's April **Advisory Board** meeting. This free, two-year program is accepting applications from high school graduates. Trainees work in all areas of the garden and receive classroom instruction. At the end of the program, they can work in a variety of horticultural positions. Dave asked board members to share this information with friends and neighbors. For more information, write or call Student Programs, Longwood Gardens, P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501. Phone 215-388-6741, Ext. 501.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will be featured in a half-hour program to air on Channel 12, June 25 and 26. The program, which is sponsored by PNC Bank, will feature the setting up of the Philadelphia Flower Show and will include interviews with Philadelphia Green community gardeners at some garden sites around the City. Watch your TV guide for a listing of times the program will air.

Staff Stuff

Matthew Thomas Myers was born with a silver trowel in his mouth. Congratulations to PG staffer, **Jeff Myers** and his wife **Renee** on the birth of their son.

Voice of America Radio interviewed PG's **Jim Holahan** and his fellow Olde City Community Gardeners about the plot where they will grow food for the homeless. The broadcast, which was heard on short-wave radio, also featured **Wendy Born**, director of community outreach for **Share Our Strength (SOS)**, the national organization which distributes food to shelters.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

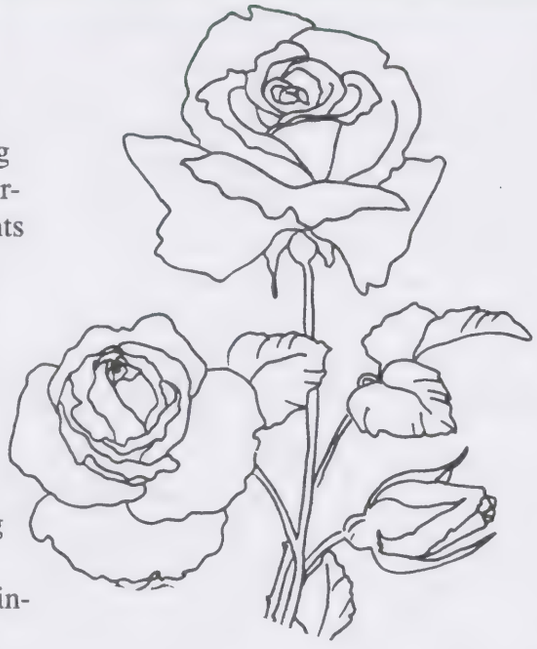
Gardening Tips

Container Roses

America's most beloved flower, the rose, is often overlooked as a container gardening candidate. Growing these colorful, fragrant and cherished plants in pots is, in fact, surprisingly easy and creates endless possibilities for landscape design versatility.

Whether you prefer the classic Hybrid Tea, compact Floribunda, majestic Tree or Standard Rose, or space-saving miniature, all rose types can successfully be grown in containers when properly planted and maintained. When growing in wine barrels on the street, shrub roses do well without taking over the sidewalk.

The best containers for roses are wood or unglazed ceramic. A pot should provide good drainage and comfortably accommodate the plant's roots. Containers should range from 10 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep for a miniature rose, to 16 inches in diameter and 18 inches deep for a tree rose. Planting mix should be 3 parts sandy loam soil to 1 part organic matter or compost. Add about l/2 cup bone meal or superphosphate fertilizer at planting time. Form a mound of planting mix on which the plant's roots will rest. Position the plant so that the crown is an inch or two below the rim of the container. Fill the container with planting mix, press down gently, and water



well. Container roses should be watered twice weekly and fertilized once a week with a liquid plant food after the new growth is off to a good start.

Roses require 4 to 6 hours of sun daily, but roots should be kept relatively cool in the heat of summer by mulching with wood chips or store-bought mulch.

Wintering roses in smaller containers is a snap. Simply move the container into a unheated shelter when the temperature dips below 28 degrees F. Keep the roots barely moist and do not fertilize. When the weather warms, bring your pot out into the sun, prune, and watch the amazing process repeat itself year after year. Roses in wine barrels should be mulched heavily instead of moved.

Container gardening offers the beauty of a complete rose garden, even in spots where you thought you did not have room for roses.

Summer Iris Care

By this time most iris will be done blooming. For young clumps, remove the old flower stalks so plants don't waste energy producing seeds. For older clumps, get ready to divide and conquer.

Clumps older than 3 or 4 years have gotten crowded, have used up the available nutrients, and will bloom less and less each year unless divided. This is the best time of year for this operation, since plants enter into an almost dormant state after blooming, and so will suffer almost no transplant shock.

Iris grow out from the center, so the youngest and healthiest roots are always on the outer edges of the clump. When dividing, plant the fattest, healthiest roots (rhizomes) in small bunches — three is best — with fans of leaves out and roots facing in.

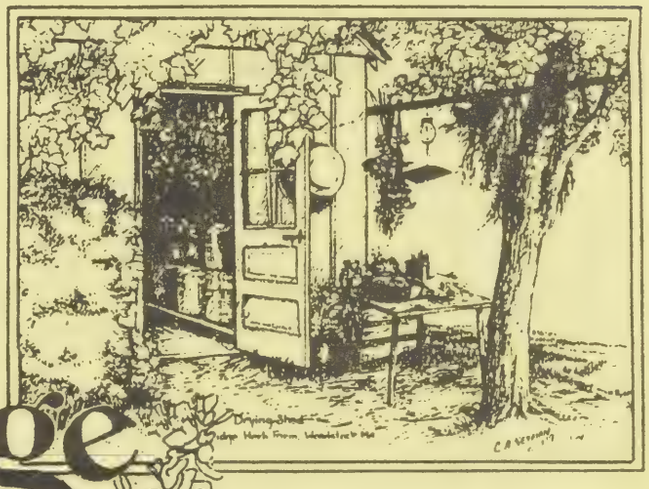
Prepare the new planting spot (even if it's in the same spot as the old one) with plenty of compost or other organic matter and bone meal. The iris will live there undisturbed for several years, so you'll want to make sure they have plenty to eat.

A typical old clump of iris has at least five times as many roots as needed for the amount of space. Give the rest away, making sure to mark the bunches so people know what color their gifts will be when they bloom. Some gardeners even write the color or variety on the leaves with a laundry marker!

Holy Parsley!

Join us for a tour of beautiful **Stillridge Herb Farm** in Woodstock, Maryland. The visit includes a tour of the gardens and greenhouse, and a lecture on the culture, care, and biblical uses of herbs.
Price also includes a delicious, complete herbal luncheon.

Date:	Friday, July 2nd
Cost:	$15.00 per person
Time:	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Depart from:	The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society 325 Walnut Street



Stillridge
HERB FARM

tear off

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at $15.00 per person.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

DEADLINE Thursday, June 24th

Make check or money order payable to **PHS** and return to:
Flossie Narducci
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Phila PA 19106

From the **Neighborhood Gardens Association**

325 Chestnut Street • Suite 800 • 625-8264

Who You Gonna Call???

by Elayne Lemanow, Neighborhood Gardens Association

Ride through the streets of Philadelphia, and you start to notice something; spots of splendid community gardens peeking out between the housing and stores of the inner city! These community gardens are special; they are growing on land that was most likely once vacant, abandoned, and trash-strewn . These gardens are flourishing on soil and love: the soil of the land and the love of the neighborhood's gardeners and community members.

However, most community gardeners do not own the land where they garden. At any time, the owner may put the property up for sale, or may request that the gardeners vacate the land. And when your garden land is up for sale, or you think you may be asked to leave the land, "Who are you gonna call?"

"Call **Neighborhood Gardens Association** (NGA)" says **Claire Power**, Executive Director. NGA, a city-wide land trust, was established specifically to protect Philadelphia's community gardens and to ensure that gardeners can continue gardening on a long-term basis. NGA's programs strongly support the gardening projects of the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green** and **Penn State's Urban Gardening.**

NGA's work usually begins with a phone call: "How can we save our community garden? Our garden land is up for sale and we were asked to leave. What can we do?"

NGA helps gardeners preserve their gardens by offering assistance with various real estate/land ownership options. These options vary and range from NGA actually acquiring the land itself or NGA assisting gardeners with the real estate research, negotiations, and legal work necessary to acquire the gardens themselves. In either case, the joy of gardening and the day-to-day garden management remains in the hands of the gardeners.

To find out more about how NGA can help save your garden, please call 625-8264.

NGA's "First Tomato" Contest

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the Third Annual Vine-Ripened Tomato contest, sponsored by the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA). First and second ripened tomatoes will get a prize: a gardening video featuring the researched and tested expert gardening techniques of **Jeff Ball**.

The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. Last year's contest winners were **Marion Luongo** of the Emma's Court garden in Kensington South, and **Charlotte Birch** of Lower West Germantown.

An NGA staffperson must see the tomato on the vine. Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomatoes start to ripen. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Cultivating Kids

Show Off Your Creations -- AGAIN!!

Here's a chance to win more ribbons with your Junior Flower Show entries.
Or a chance to enter if you missed the Show. Categories are duplicated from our own Junior Show.

Bring your entries to the County Fair.
Registration is Thursday, June 3rd, from 3-8 PM, at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park.

1. ***Breakfast table Arrangement : "Breakfast of Champions"-*** An arrangement in a breakfast related container of fresh and /or dried plant material. Accessories permitted. (Open to all grades)

2. ***Table Arrangement : "Healthy Harvest"-*** A table arrangement of healthy things from the garden. May include flowers, foliage, fruits and vegetables. Accessories permitted. (Open to grades 7 - 12)

3. ***Crafty Creatures : "An Apple a Day" -*** creatures made from only dried plant material (dried apple faces, seed pods, etc.) doing some-thing healthy. (Open to all grades)

4. ***Seed Sunshades: "Raybean Eyewear" -*** Sun glasses or visors decorated with seeds, beans and dried plant material. May include beads and /or feathers. NO MACARONI. (Open to all grades)

5. ***Dried Arrangement: "Flower Power" -*** An arrangement of roadside collectibles in some type of athletic shoe. Made only of dried plant material. Accessories permitted. (Open to grades 3 - 12)

6. ***Athletic Headgear: "I Think I Can" -*** Any athletic headgear decorated with natural materials (dried flowers, weeds, seeds,etc.). NO SILK OR PLASTIC FLOWERS. Accessories permitted. (Open to all grades)

7. ***Scarecrow: "Doctor, Dentist, Aerobics Instructor" -*** A scarecrow that represents a person from a health oriented profession. Must be standing and at least 24" tall. (Open to all grades)

8. ***Pressed Plant Design : "Good Things Come In Small Packages"-*** A pressed plant design for a health food package. Use pressed flowers and / or foliage to make the design. Not to exceed 4" x 6". (Open to all grades)

9. ***Mobile: "Oxygenmobile"-*** Mobile made from parts of trees such as leaves, twigs, nuts, acorns, etc. (Open to all grades)

10. ***Vegetable Print : "You Are What You Eat "-*** A block print design, using cut vegetables as the printing tool, depicting the basic food groups. (Open to all grades)

11. ***Trophy for Physical Fitness: "And the Winner Is!*** "- A trophy made from natural and recycled materials. Not to exceed 24" in height and 10" in width. Must stand on its own. (Open to all grades)

Share the Challenge

Register for **FREE** seeds for the Challenge Classes of the 1993 Harvest Show, ***A Shared Harvest.***

Dwarf Sunflower 'Big Smile'

What is a Challenge Class?

Do you love to grow plants in containers? You can show off your pint-size gardening skills in the Harvest Show Challenge Classes. Just fill out the form below to obtain FREE seeds. Once the seeds arrive, start growing. As part of the Challenge Class team, you'll be sprouting seeds, transplanting, watering, fertilizing, and picking off bugs to keep your potted entries in show condition through the summer months. You will bring your potted specimens to the Show on either Thursday, September 23rd or Friday, September 24th.

The 1993 selections are:

Baby Eggplant 'Bambino'

Perfect for containers or as perky ornamental border plants, new hybrid Bambino eggplants are true genetic babies with plants that grow only 12 inches tall. Even at their diminutive size, these attractive, strong-growing plants are well-branched and bear an abundance of shiny little rounded 1-1 1/2" fruit. Glossy deep purple Bambinos are just the right size for stir fries, saute's, or shish-kebobs for morsels of nutty flavor. 60 days to harvest..

Salvia 'Top Burgundy'

Makes a terrific container flower with dark green foliage, long, vigorous, weather-resistant, long-lasting flower spikes. Unlike the monotonous bright reds of most nursery-grown bedding salvias, this cultivar is a luscious burgundy color that is particularly pleasing when combined with violets, pinks and whites.

Dwarf Sunflower 'Big Smile'

Delightful new dwarf sunflowers bear full-sized flowers that bloom on straight, sturdy 12-18" stems. Their cheerful 5" faces have full golden-yellow petals and soft brown centers. Big Smile brings the pleasure of ornamental sunflowers to containers and low beds. Plants bloom in just 55-65 days, producing one big long-lasting flower with occasional side shoots. A joy for gardening with children.

Tomato 'Yellow Canary'

Make your summer salads a celebration by adding these golden yellow bite-size treats. Both ornamental and delicious, this small fruiting pot-type is extremely compact. Only 6 inches tall, with branching habit, it produces abundantly and is lovely growing in planters or baskets. Plan for 63 days to harvest.

tear off and return

I would like to enter the 1993 Harvest Show Challenge Class. Please send me the following seeds:

_____ **Eggplant 'Bambino'** ____ **Salvia 'Top Burgundy'** ____**Tomato 'Yellow Canary'** ____**Sunflower 'Big Smile'**

Name _____Phone_____

Address _____ZIP_____

Please return to:

Flossie Narducci
CHALLENGE CLASS
325 Walnut Street
Phila PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Fannie Blair waited on a bench under the arbor in the **Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden**. She greeted me warmly as **Debbie Hall**, Philadelphia Green staffer introduced me. As we sat together in the shade on that warm spring morning, Ms. Blair smiled and said, "The garden means a lot to me. Digging in the dirt - that's what God wants us to do. We must live by tilling the soil." And till she does. Ms. Blair has been one of the mainstays of the Johnson Garden since its beginning three years ago. She works her own plots and gives a hand to her neighbors. She's out in the garden almost all day long. That's pretty remarkable for a woman who, at 78, has had two heart attacks a two strokes.

When the Johnson Garden first started up, a neighbor suggested Ms. Blair get involved. The neighbor was well-acquainted with Ms. Blair's wonderful backyard garden. Though she hadn't fully recovered from her latest illness, Ms. Blair went to work. Soon after, her doctor came to visit her home and was told he'd find her in the garden. The doctor congratulated her for gardening. He cautioned her to take it easy, then borrowed her hoe and set to work himself. Ms. Blair laughed as she recalled that day. She mostly goes to the doctor to hear the diagnosis. If anything needs fixing, she puts the prescription aside and goes to the herb store to get natural alternatives for the cure.

As we walked around the plots assigned to her, a long row of Swiss chard had put out a healthy flush of growth. "I love them. I love vegetables, period." Ms. Blair's gardening experience goes back to the farm near Augusta, Georgia where she grew up. It was there she learned how to work hard, a skill she has used over and over in her life. "I always could take care of myself." Ms. Blair's father, who farmed cotton, encouraged the children to clear a plot of ground and grow whatever they wanted. Young Fannie grew peanuts, corn and watermelon. She took the crop to sell in town. Her father always let her keep some of what she earned.

Ms. Blair is also a flower fancier. She brought evening primroses over to the community garden after growing them in her garden for 13 years. Now they're spreading all over. Another favorite is bee balm, an herb for tea, with bright red flowers. One hot day last summer, Ms. Blair forgot to water the flowers. She remembered and went out around 10 pm. She watered every one of her darlings. "Next morning, their heads were up again, looking so pretty."

Before I left her, Ms. Blair looked over at a neighboring plot. Weeds were taking over. "I called the lady across the path. I sure will help her out, but she's got to start it. She'll be out soon. She knows I'll be around her house if she doesn't."

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Please pass this copy along

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

June 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Vol. 15, No. 6 July/August 1993

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

article and photo by Tom Mishler

Meade School is greening!! Students at this school in the Cecil B. Moore neighborhood grew plants from seeds under lights last spring. Guided by **Lynette Stewart,** teacher liason, and **Robert Nottingham**, president of the Home & School Association, PG Education staffers **Jeff Myers** and **Janet Carter** helped teachers new to growing get a handle on classroom gardening.

Other great green stuff happened at the school this past year. **Mindy Maslin,** PG's Tree Education Specialist, held an Environmental Jeopardy assembly program and played Treemendous Feats with second graders. Teachers prepared the children using study material that Mindy sent ahead of time. Meade School's Challenge class participated in a tour of the 1993 Philadelphia Flower Show and also prepared the title poster for an exhibit called "Celebrate Trees." The exhibit was shown at the Gallery in Center City, moved on to the Academy of Science and then to participating schools.

The Wagner Free Institute of Science, located at 17th & Montgomery near the Meade School, hosted a special science program for third graders. For Arbor Day, they planted small trees on the historic grounds of this unique museum. The children learned about trees, soil and especially worms!

In addition to all these activities, our staff led the design team to develop the plans for a teaching garden at the Meade School. PG's Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** worked with a group of teachers, school staff, neighbors, children, and our consultants, **The Delta Group**. The landscaped area will provide the students with many ways to learn about gardening. Raised beds will be built so that the children can grow plants they start in the classrooms. Teachers will use horticulture in this outdoor classroom to help their students learn about art, history, math, and science. Plans include a collection of trees and shrubs native to the Delaware Valley. The children designed tiles for a mosaic depicting the natural conditions of the Delaware Valley. They worked on this project at **Temple U's** Ambler Campus when they visited the **Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Department. Geneva Hill**, director of the Cecil B. Moore Service Organization, (formerly the CBM Residents' Association,) has been a quiet but steadying hand throughout the planning process.

The construction of the teaching garden and an associated neighborhood garden next door will start soon. **Mary Dixon** is the block captain on Gratz Street opposite the school, and has been most helpful during the planning stages of the greening developments on the street. The neighbors' garden has an eye-catching mural of the former mayor, **W. Wilson Goode**, created by the **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network**. Some neighbors shown in the mural are the same folks helping to build the garden. These gardens are the beginning of a neighborhood -wide greening effort. We hope that all of Cecil B. Moore neighborhood will soon be blossoming as much as the students at the Meade School.

Meade School students visiting the Flower Show

Meade School greening project is sponsored by the Beech Corporation, and is funded through a grant by the William Penn Foundation.

Hydrant Permits

If your garden is using a fire hydrant for watering this summer, the City requires you to have a **Hydrant Permit.** To acquire yours, send the following to **Bettie McGill** at **Philadelphia Green**:

- $9 check or money order, payable to **"City of Philadelphia"**
- Exact address of the hydrant (such as **"southeast corner of 4th & Chestnut"** or "**325 Chestnut**")
- Name of person who will be using the hydrant
- Address of garden or garden block

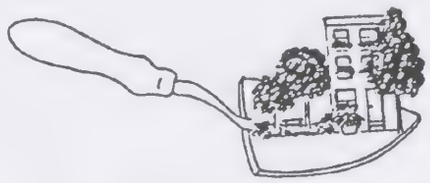
Be sure that everyone who will be using the hydrant knows where the permit is held, and is informed of any rules or regulations that apply to its uses.

Pass It Along

Did you know that you may be the only person in your garden or on your block who is receiving the Philadelphia Green News? If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving their own copy of the News, please send their name to:

PG NEWS
Sally McCabe, Editor
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St.
Phila, PA 19106

or call the reception desk at 625-8280.



Welcome New Groups!

On behalf of all the seasoned Philadelphia Green gardeners, we bid warm welcome to the many new faces in community greening projects this past spring. Neighborhoods all around the city are bursting with gardens. Some people are growing their own food for the very first time. In others, annual and perennial flowers are glowing against the background of attractive trees and shrubs. A number of block groups have started growing flowers in containers along the sidewalks in their neighborhoods. We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Garden Blocks

1900 S. Ithan St	Wilhemina Graham
6200 Catherine St.	Nan Leavy
5500 Paschall Ave.	Roslyn Roper
1500 S. 53rd St.	Veronica Epps
5600 Carpenter St.	Leemond Hopkins
5500 Pine St.	Dolores Bagwell
5200 Upland St.	Marion Bolden
900 St. Bernard St.	Emma Williams
1200 St. Bernard St.	Gloria Suber
5500 Delancy St.	Deborah Jenkins
1300 S. Paxon	Louise Simmons
1600 S. 54th St.	Gwendolyn Morris
200 S. 57th St.	Virginia Bowen
1400 S. Paxon St.	Samuel Hall
1500 S. Wilton St.	Carrie Palmer
1800 N. Bouvier St.	Wyn Postell

Norris Square

1900 Block N. Hope St	Rosita Quintana
1900 Block N. Howard St.	Olga Matias
300 W. Susquehanna	Irma Thomas

Special Requests

Firehouse Engine #56	
Rhawn & Veree Rd.	John Theisen
Trevor's Place	
1618 Poplar St.	Carolyn Walker
Overington Park	Linda DeSouza

This list carries over from the June issue, and will be continued in the September issue as new groups join Philadelphia Green.

Clippings

Community News

The Ribbon of Gold was unfurled in a new area at the Cobbs Creek Gateway when the **Friends of Cobbs Creek**, PG staff and local leaders planted the familiar eye-catching wildflowers. **Mayor Ed Rendell** pitched in along with **Mark Viggiano** of **PhilaPride, John Howard** of **Foundation For Architecture, Bill Mifflin, Executive Director, Fairmount Park Commission** and **Blaine Bonham, Executive Director** of **Philadelphia Green.** Representing Friends of Cobbs Creek were **Norman Boykins, J.H. Chitwood, Rebecca Gray, Harriet Gurley, Anthony Jackson, Nan Leavy, Eugene Parker, Walter Parker, Donna Sims,** and **Adeal Utterback. Husain Alim** of the **Cobbs Creek Recreation Center** will maintain the area.

The **1993 Junior Flower Show** attracted 1268 entries in horticultural and artistic classes related to the theme "Growing Healthy." Fourth graders from **Huey School** designed and constructed the Central Feature exhibit "Recycled Rainforest" as a special project sponsored by **Core States Bank** and **Philadelphia Magazine**. Huey School received a cash award from Core States for their creativity.

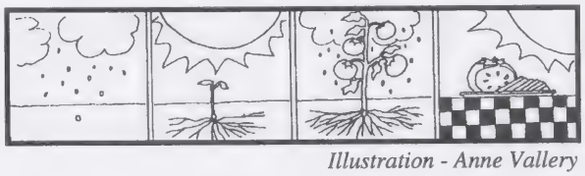


Illustration - Anne Vallery

The **Meade School** was well-represented at the show. **Ms. Marshall's Special Education class** successfully grew ginger as a challenge class entry and received first prize. Students from **Ms. Robin's** and **Ms. Farland's 5th Grade classes** and **Ms. Brown's Science classes** entered healthy plants that were grown under light units. Some of those plants may have enjoyed listening to a song about light units which was composed by Ms. Brown and her students.

The **Susquehanna Garden Club** and **Point Breeze** gardeners traveled to Longwood Gardens in May and acquired some great tips from the idea gardens there. This was the first joint trip for the two groups.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

It didn't rain on our parade! On May 19th, more than 100 volunteers planted annuals at City Hall under cloudy, but dry skies. The event, in its second year, was sponsored by **PNC Bank, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** and **Fairmount Park Commission**. PHS/Philadelphia Green staff, led by **Kathryn Newland** and **Flossie Narducci,** worked on advance preparations and at the scene. Among the volunteers were students from **South Philadelphia High School** and their teacher, **Tina Patrone** and students from **Kate Loal's Science classes** at the **Huey School.**

*Illustration by Ellen Oliver Parsons**

In late May, seven gardeners and two staff people traveled to Cherrymont Farm Nursery in Berks County for a workshop on perennial care. The group included **Clannie Berrian, Iris Brown, Rena Ennis, Blanche Epps, Golde Fitzpatrick, Rita O'Kedas, Marjorie Thornton, Patricia Schrieber,** and **Eve Miller.** The weather was perfect, the flowers beautiful. Owner **Jane Lennon**, a former Philadelphia Green coordinator, offered an informative and inspiring session for all. The group was welcomed by a colorful, loud peacock. The entire scene, including the stone house and barn, wooden buildings, and old outhouse, interspersed with elegant gardens, was a joy to see. True to PG traditions, everyone shared a delicious lunch.

On May 26th **Norris Square** volunteers joined Philadelphia Green staff for a mammoth planting day at four gardens in this Greene Countrie Towne. In addition to planting herbs, perennials and annuals, the work crew handled a delivery of eight tons of gravel. They did it with lots of muscle, wheelbarrows, shovels and many hands. Among the neighborhood workers were **Tomasita Romero**, **Darling Rosario** and **Indigo**. PG's **Eileen Gallagher**, **Tom Mishler** and **Winfred Young** coordinated the successful project. The activity was fueled by a neighborhood-prepared Hispanic feast.

* In *Happier in the Country* by Jane Reed Lennon

Gardening Tips for July and August

Pesticide Safety

Before reaching for a pesticide, ask yourself these questions:

- Is the damage bad enough to demand spraying? A few holes in leaves or sighting a few bugs are not reason enough to spray.
- Have you tried other methods of controlling the pest, such as handpicking? Can the crop be grown at another time of the year when the pest is not present?
- Have you properly identified the pest? Do you know exactly what you're battling?
- Have you read the label? The fine print?
- Have you chosen the least poisonous chemical available for control? Look for the words "caution," "warning" and "danger" on the label. Caution is found on chemical labels that are least toxic, while those marked with danger are most poisonous.
- Are both the insect and plant to be sprayed listed on the label? If not, the pesticide may not be effective, and technically, you're breaking the law!
- Are the days to wait between spraying and harvest in line with your needs? If you'll be picking beans in three days, but the days to wait after spraying is seven days for your pesticide, you need to consider alternatives.
- Are you going to spray during a calm evening after the honeybees have stopped working? Spray only the infested plants.
- If you're a community gardener, spray only in your own plot, and be sure to alert your neighbors!
- In listing these precautions, we are in no way endorsing the use of chemical sprays. We are, however, endorsing the use of common sense and common courtesy.

NGA's "First Tomato" Contest

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the Third Annual Vine-Ripened Tomato contest, sponsored by the Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA). First and second ripened tomatoes will get a prize: a gardening video featuring the researched and tested expert gardening techniques of **Jeff Ball**.

The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. Last year's contest winners were **Marion Luongo** of the Emma's Court garden in Kensington South, and **Charlotte Birch** of Lower West Germantown.

An NGA staffperson must see the tomato on the vine. Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomatoes start to ripen. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Planting for Procrastinators

Most gardeners know the difference between cool season planting and warm season planting. All gardeners practice **Warm season gardening**, which includes everything that has to wait for the higher temperatures of May and June (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet potatoes, beans, limas, and squash.)

Good gardeners start gardening long before warmer weather. **Cool season gardening** is what happens before the last frost, and it includes many root crops (carrots, beets, turnips, radishes, potatoes, etc), leaf and cole crops (lettuce, mustard, turnips, spinach, rape, kale, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and collards.)

But the best gardeners always remember that there's a third season to plan for, **the fall garden**. Gardening doesn't have to end with a cleanup after the first frost around Halloween—it can be stretched into the winter. And with the help of a cold frame, some really hardy plants can be kept alive until spring rolls around again.

Counting Backwards

July & August are the times to start planning for your fall garden. And successful planning rests on your being able to count backwards.

Pick up any seed packet. Chances are good that somewhere in the planting instructions will be the important item DAYS TO HARVEST. This is an estimate of how long it will take before you'll be able to start picking anything of a reasonable size. This means the first leaf of lettuce, the first radish, the first taste of kale.

Since fall crops generally taste better if they mature in the cooler weather of September and October, take the days to harvest figure and begin to count backward from the beginning of October. Kale, which takes at least 60 days to mature, should be started when?? (Count back — September, August, and start plants in July.) 90 days brings you back to June, 100 days puts you to work even sooner.

Coming Up in July & August

July	1-20	**City Gardens Contest**	Preliminary judging
August	1-20	**City Gardens Contest**	Final Judging

Plant in July from seed:
beans
beets
chinese cabbage
collards
corn
cucumbers
kale
lettuce
pansies

From transplants:
brussels sprouts
chrysanthemums

Wait for August:
endive
peas
spinach
radishes
garlic bulbs
carrots

Cultivating Kids

Are We There Yet?? Day Trips to take with Kids

Note: This is only a partial listing of area attractions. Please call ahead before visiting to find out when to come, admission fees, hours, and reservations.

Community Vegetable Gardens

Johnson Homes - Ridge & Glenwood Aves.
Mrs. Deborah Hall,
625-8280.

Glenwood Acres - 18th & Glenwood Ave.
Mr. James Taylor,
229-7122

Environmental Centers

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Hagy's Mill Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128
(215) 482-7300

Pennypack Environmental Center
8600 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19115
(215) 671-0440

Andorra Natural Area
Old Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
(215) 685-9285

Camden County Environmental Studies Center
Park Drive and Estaugh Avenue
Berlin, NJ 08009
(609) 768-1598

Schools of Horticulture

Temple University, Ambler Campus
Meeting House Rd.
Ambler, PA 19002-3999
(215) 283-1200

W.B. Saul High School of Vocational Agriculture
7100 Henry Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19128
(215) 487-4467

Horticultural and Environmental Studies Academy
Lincoln High School
Ryan and Rowland
Philadelphia, PA
(215) 335-5653

Farms

Howell Living History Farm
Box 187, R.R. 2, Hunter Road
Titusville, NJ 08560
(609) 737-3299, or 397-0449

Landis Valley
Pennsylvania Farm Museum of Landis Valley
2451 Kissel Hill Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 569-0401

"Pick-Your-Own" Farms

Conte Farms -
Apples in September, Pumpkins in October
299 Flyatt Road
Tabernacle, NJ 08088
(609) 268-1010

Four Winds Farms - Pumpkins and Strawberries
435 Medford Lakes Road
Tabernacle, NJ 08088
(609) 268-9113

Snipes - Apples & Berries
Route 1, Morrisville, PA 19067
(215) 295-1138

Barnard's Orchards and Greenhouses - Apples
1079 Warwaset Rd. (Route 842)
Kennett Square, PA 19348
(215) 347-2151

Northbrook Orchards - Apples
6 Northbrook Road
West Chester, PA 19382
(215) 793-1210

Highland Orchards Inc. - Apples
1000 Thorndale Road
West Chester, PA 19380
(215) 269-3494

Linvilla Orchards
137 W. Knowlton Rd.
Media, PA 19063
(215) 876-7116

Gardens and Arboretums

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 625-8280

Independence National Historical Park (INHP)
3rd Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 597-8974

Pennsylvania Hospital Physic Garden Ages 14-18
8th and Pine Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 829-3971

Bartram's House and Gardens
54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19143
(215) 729-5281

Longwood Gardens
Route 1, Box 501
Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501
(215) 388-6741

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
100 Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
(215) 247-5777, or 242-3399

Awbury Arboretum
Chew Avenue at Washington Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
(215) 849-2855 (City Parks Association)

Horticulture Center
North Horticultural Drive (off Belmont Avenue)
Philadelphia, PA 19131
(215) 879-4062

Japanese House
North Horticultural Drive (off Belmont Avenue)
Philadelphia, PA 19131
(215) 685-0104

Pennsbury Manor
Route 9
Morrisville, PA 19067
(215) 946-64002.

Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College
500 College Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081
(215) 328-8025

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The 1993 Junior Flower Show was a particularly memorable one for a group of students and their teachers from **HMS School**. Although the school had made entries in previous years, no student had ever attended the show, which is held in the First Bank of the U.S. Since the students are wheelchair bound, the building's steps had put the show out of reach. Until this year, that is, when **Eugene Reeves**, PG's Youth Program Specialist, took on the cause of accessibility.

Gene has visited with the students and teachers each week since early spring to support their garden ing activities. Early on, Gene was delighted to hear that they were planning entries for this year's Junior Flower Show.

The students had much to occupy their attention until mid-May's show. They planted seeds that grew under lights in the garden room. They gave away plants for Mother's Day. Other plants joined flower seedlings from a local garden center for a school plant sale. The students and teachers even started working in their back garden.

At HMS, a school for children with cerebral palsy, each student has his or her own teacher as partner. As each child learns about gardening, so does each adult. With fifteen students and their teachers involved, quite a large portion of the school is now gardening on a regular basis. Some students are playing in the dirt and touching nature for the first time.

On the first day of the Junior Flower Show, two buses pulled up to the door. Nine students eagerly waited their turn as two members of the **University of Pennsylvania's Veterans Upward Bound Program** carefully lifted each chair up the steps. A lunchtime lull gave the students plenty of room for a run of the show, under their own power. They were thrilled to see that one of their creations, a mobile made of natural objects, won Best of Show. First prize ribbons were awarded to their scarecrow, a visor and a table arrangement.

Congratulations to **Brian, Travis, Luke, Howard, Marrissa, Malia, Sarah, Allen, Derrick, and Justin.**

Patricia Schrieber

PHILADELPHIA GREEN NEWS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut St., Philadelphia , PA 19106-2777
625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

July/August 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's

Philadelphia Green News

Vol. 15 • No. 7 • September 1993

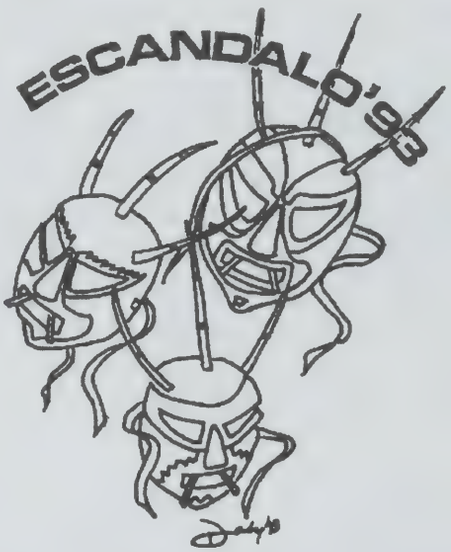
Rebuilding a Park

Trudy Gay, president of the **Friends of Wharton Square**, brought community residents together to begin revitalizing their neighborhood's major green space. Due to lack of city funding the park was showing signs of decay. The Friends created a master plan with the help of Philadelphia Green's Community Landscape Architect, **Tom Mishler**. PG will be working with the group over the next few years to implement the Master Plan through a grant from the **William Penn Foundation** and in cooperation with the **Department of Recreation**.

When the group discovered that many of their trees had died, they made replanting a top priority. They planted 10 new trees in one day last spring. Afterward the folks had a great picnic. Later in the summer they worked together with PG staff **Sue Phillips** and **Sally McCabe** and visiting graduate students from Atlanta, Georgia to stake, wire and prune all the trees. The existing trees in the park are slated to be refurbished with major trimming and shaping later this year.

Special thanks to **Robert Gay, James Stephan, Eddie Brooker, Leroy Miles, George,** and **students from Dixon House** for their help in the ongoing project.

Come join neighbors, City officials and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for



a two day celebration to dedicate the **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne**.

Everyone will gather on **September 17** at **2:00 pm** in the **Las Parcelas Community Garden, 2241 N. Palethorp Street** for the official dedication ceremony. Refreshments will be served.

On **September 18**, the community will continue the celebration with activities from **noon** to **6 pm** in gardens throughout the neighborhood. Be there for storytelling, face painting, workshops, specialty foods and music.

Everyone is invited to share in congratulating the community on its achievements!

Join us at the
1993 Community Gardeners' Harvest Party!!!

Date: Saturday, Sept 25th
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Place: Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park

You can order five free tickets for your community group in advance. Call Flossie at 625-8280 to order. Additional tickets are available at the Registration Tables when you make an entry at the Harvest Show.

Enter Your Prize-Winners at the 1993 Harvest Show!!!

Bring in your garganuan garlics, titanic tomatoes, sumptuous squash, and dazzling dahlias and show them off!

Call 625-8280 for your Harvest Show Schedule Book.

where: Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park

when: Thursday, Sept 23, 5:30-8 PM
Friday, Sept 24, 7:30-10 AM

And Speaking of Prize-Winners...First Vine-Ripened Tomato

The Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA) is proud to announce the winners in their 1993 First Vine-Ripened Tomato Contest:

Blanche Epps, Pearl & Conestoga
John Smith, Juniata Park
Judith Cills, 3rd & Christian

Past winners of this covetted award are:

Charlotte Birch, Germantown, 1992
Marian Luongo, Emma's Court, 1992
Marjorie Washington, Aspen Farms, 1991

For more information about NGA and their garden preservation projects, call **NGA** at **625-8264.**

Yes, we still need Hydrant Permits

If your garden is using a fire hydrant for watering , the City requires a Hydrant Permit. Send the following to **Betsy Johnson** at Philadelphia Green and she will forward it to the Water Department:

- $9 check or money order, payable to "**City of Philadelphia**"
- Exact address of the hydrant (such as "southeast corner of 4th & Chestnut" or "325 Chestnut")
- Name of person who will be using the hydrant
- Address of garden or garden block

Be sure that everyone who will be using the hydrant knows where the permit is held, and is informed of any rules or regulations that apply to its uses. Permits are issued within three weeks.

Clippings

Community News

What was once a vacant trash-strewn lot behind the Ludlow School playground on N. 6th Street is now a thriving tree farm. School Community Coordinator **Maria Mulero** got the ball rolling by contacting our Assistant Tree Coordinator **José Garcia**. Ludlow students and staff removed debris from the lot, built raised beds and spread compost. Under José's direction, they planted 60 small trees and carefully watered them. **Principal Gillespie** wielded a shovel along with other staff. During the summer, neighbor **Juan Cruz** will take care of the trees. At the end of the school year, José spoke to the students about careers in urban forestry. He presented participants with certificates in honor of their efforts.

✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿

Over 60 hardy travelers braved damp, dark weather in early July to visit Stillridge Herb Farm in Maryland. The group enjoyed a workshop on the care and culture of herbs including ones mentioned in the Bible. Stillridge owners backed a truck up to their home and removed furniture to set up a tasty picnic in their living room. Among those present were several people new to PG trips: Azalea Garden volunteers **Douglas Alderfer**, **Deborah Black**, and **Marc Zaharchuk** and twelve community gardeners from **Norris Square**. PG Events Coordinator **Flossie Narducci** organized the trip, assisted by Administrative Assistant **Linda Dickerson**.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Thanks to **Darling Rosario** of **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne** for translating our lead handouts into Spanish. Call Eve at 625-8280 for your free copies.

The **Central Germantown Council**, its project coordinator **Sydelle Zove,** and the **Germantown Business Association** recently initiated a special project with the help of Philadelphia Green. As a result, attractive low maintenance parking lots with trees and flowers have replaced dangerous, trash-filled ones in Germantown. Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler,** worked with community members to design efficient, pleasing spaces. Tree Coordinator **Sue Phillips** and the PG crew enlarged the tree pits, removed dead trees and planted 17 new ones. Students from nearby **Green Street Friends School** attended the planting. Youth from **Germantown Friends High School** planted colorful flowers around the trees.

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

Verlene Johnson, PG Neighborhood Coordinator, has seen a growth in community participation at a new lotscape in the **1700 Block N. Gratz Street**. The project started slowly but took off after **James Robinson** recruited several young men from the neighborhood. These new gardeners showed a willingness to learn with lots of enthusiasm. They built raised beds and planted shrubs and perennials. At present, they are still involved and eager to take on new projects. Neighbors **Elsian Smith** and **Eileen Fletcher** appreciate the help given by these dedicated workers.

✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿

Residents of the **5500 block of Webster Street** suffered a devastating loss when their 100 year old London Plane trees were removed because of disease. Block coordinator **Barbara Marx** organized a special meeting so her neighbors could learn how to adapt their front gardens that were suddenly sunny. Education staff **Janet Carter** and **Sally McCabe** shared ideas and answered questions

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Cultivating Kids

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT THE HARVEST SHOW

Join the AUTUMN GAMES ...pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, leaf masks, apple bobbing and still more!

Join the fun with your children from
10 AM - 5 PM on
Saturday and Sunday, September 25-26.
Fairmount Park Horticulture Center
Belmont Avenue and Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park

Enter the Competition!

Registration for entries is Thursday, Sept 23, 5:30-8:00 PM
& Friday, Sept 24, 7:30-10:00 AM

YOUTH SPECIAL EXHIBITS CLASSES

1. **PUMPKIN PALS**. Uncarved, uncut, painted pumpkin. Fresh and/or dried plant material and paint may be used to embellish features.

2. **CRAFTY CREATURES.** A three-dimensional creature made from seeds, nuts, pods, cones, dried flowers and/or dried materials. No fresh material, paint, ribbon or candy permitted.

3. **MAGICAL MASK.** A mask of your favorite barnyard animal created with dried plant materials only. Title or name subject required on a 3x5 card. Not to exceed 18" in any direction. Must be equipped to be hung.

4. **HAPPY HALLOWEEN.** A diorama (a three-dimensional miniature scene with figures and background) of a farm/country scene. Must incorporate dried and/or fresh plant material. Maximum shoebox size; to sit on a table-top.

YOUTH DESIGN CLASSES

6. **WAGONS AND WHEELS.** An arrangement created from a collection of roadside flowers or weeds, fresh or dried. A toy wagon must be used as a container, not to exceed 12" in any direction, excluding the wagon handle. No potted plants or food items permitted. Accessories permitted. Eligible for the *Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful* certificate.

7. **GINGHAM AND LACE.** An arrangement for a square dance supper of fresh and/or dried plant material set on a gingham or lace napkin. No food items permitted. Accessories permitted. Not to exceed 12" in any direction.

8. **BUTTONS AND BOWS.** An arrangement of fresh plant material, using buttons and bows as accessories. Not to exceed 12" in any direction.

YOUTH HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

9. **CACTUS OR SUCCULENT PLANT.**
Container not to exceed 8". One variety to a container.

10. **VEGETABLES.** Grown by exhibitor.
   A. Tomatoes, three specimens
   B. Squash, three specimens (one, if large type)
   C. Cucumbers, three specimens
   D. Peppers, three specimens
   E. Eggplant, one specimen
   F. Beans, 12 specimens
   G. Beets, three specimens
   H. Carrots, three specimens
   I. Gourds, three specimens (one, if large type)
   J. Pumpkin, one of any variety
   L. Melon, one of any variety
   M. Any vegetable other than Classes A through L, three specimens
   N. Herbs, three specimens, one variety, in water
   O. COLLECTION, five or more different vegetables, fruits and/or herbs. Herbs should be in water-filled containers supplied by committee. More than one of each variety permitted. Attractively displayed in a basket supplied by the exhibitor.

11. **SUNFLOWER**. One head, grown by exhibitor.

12. **DISH GARDEN**. An arrangement of two or more plants in a shallow container no larger than 12" in diameter. Small figures may be used.

13. **TERRARIUM.** Must have a cover and contain two or more growing plants. Not to exceed 18" in any direction.

14. **ANNUALS**. A collection of annuals. Five specimens, one or more kinds. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

15. **PERENNIALS**. A collection of perennials. Five specimens, one or more varieties. Collection to be judged for quality with artistic effect secondary.

16. **CONTAINER GROWN.** a. Vegetables b. Annuals
c. Fruits d. Herbs e. Any other

17. **VINEGAR.** An herb vinegar to be judged for visual effect.

18. **PRESERVED PRODUCT**. One canned product. Judged for visual effect. All canned products must be heat sealed as appropriate in a hot water or pressure canner. Paraffin sealing is not acceptable.

Branching Out

Thanks, William Penn!

A big thanks to **The William Penn Foundation** for providing a new three-year grant for our Tree Program, and a new neighborhood parks revitalization project. This grant will allow us to plant more trees on neighborhood streets and vacant lots with a special emphasis in North Philadelphia. We will also continue our Tree Education program in city schools and at public events. We will work with community groups involved in efforts to rehabilitate four **Department of Recreation** neighborhood parks, including **Wharton Square** and **Norris Square.**

Great Tree-Tenders

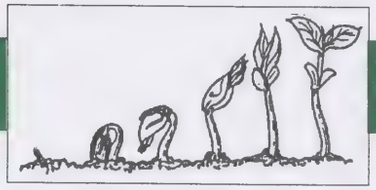
50 volunteers from more than a dozen city neighborhoods participated in a three-day Tree-Tenders training in June and July, where they learned tree physiology, tree pruning, troubleshooting, and how to do a neighborhood street tree inventory. PG Tree Education Specialist **Mindy Maslin** organized the training, and was joined by instructors **Julianne Scheiffer**, Penn State Urban Foresty Agent; and **Walt Stankus** and **Rich Sunday** from Fairmount Park. Group leaders included **Karl Olsen**, Northern Liberties; **Catharine Franklin & Rebekah Ray,** Penn-Knox; **Jim Hammermann,** Powelton; **Lauren Leatherbarrow,** Spruce Hill; **John Manotti,** Squirrel Hill; **Madeline Magee,** Duval; **Genita Millhouse & Frank Console,** Habitat For Humanity; **Angela Coghlan,** Cross-Bartimore Ave.; **Bob Pierson,** Gaskill-Bainbridge; **Joe O'Brien,** Kensington South, and **Gail Reedy,** Collingswood, NJ.

Neighbors in many parts of the city can breathe more easily knowing that the Tree-Tenders are trained and ready to go. Having just completed training this summer, Tree-Tenders will be making their way through their own communities, instructing neighbors in the care of their trees, and helping to maintain them. Each group of Tree-Tenders will cultivate the soil in the tree pits, remove wires and stakes and prune for tree health. They will also make note of which trees will need special care at other times of the year.

Mindy points out "for every tree planted in Philadelphia, seven others die. The majority of our urban trees don't live to be more than seven years old. Most trees die as a result of abuse or neglect. Citizen awareness and involvement can dramatically extend the lifespan of trees." In addition, caring for trees beautifies the neighborhood, reduces summertime temperatures, and helps purify our air.

This summer's Tree-Tenders training was provided by Philadelphia Green through a grant by the **William Penn Foundation,** and will be repeated in October because of the overwhelming demand. If your neighborhood would like to participate, contact **Mindy Maslin** at **PG, 625-8280.**

What's Coming Up



September 17	Fri..	2:00 PM	**Escándalo '93** Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne Dedication Las Parcelas Community Garden 2241 N. Palethorp Street
September 18	Sat.	noon-6:00 PM	Continue the Celebration throughout Norris Square
September 20	Mon.	9:30-noon	**Getting Ready for the Harvest Show** Penn State Urban Gardening Demo Garden Entrance on 48th Street just north of Market
September 23	Thurs.	5:30-8 PM	Registration for Harvest Show
September 24	Fri.	7:30-10 AM	Registration for Harvest Show
September 25	Sat.	10 AM-5 PM 10 AM-5 PM 6-8 PM	**Harvest Show** Exhibits and Demonstrations (see below) Childrens' Tent open Join the fun with your children **HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 26	Sun.	10 AM-5 PM 10 AM-5 PM	**Harvest Show** Exhibits and Demonstrations Childrens' Tent open. Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!

Harvest Show Demonstrations

Saturday, September 25th

1:00 **Recipes from The Cookbook**
Sandy Manthorpe & Sally Graham will present their favorites from the PHS Cookbook.

1:45 **Forcing Bulbs for Winter Bloom**
Walt Fisher, Phila Flower Show Blue Ribbon winner.

2:30 **New Trends in Flower Arranging**
Bernice Makin, professional flower arranger.

3:15 **Herbal Wreaths and Other Decorations**
Ellen Spector Platt, Meadowlark.

Sunday, September 26th

1:00 **The Lighter Side of Gardening**
Cassandra Danz, aka "Mrs. Greenthumbs"

1:45 **Boxed Lunch from The Cookbook**
Sandy Manthorpe & Sally Graham will present their favorites from the PHS Cookbook.

2:30 **Arranging Your Harvest for a Fruitful Show**
Eva Monheim, of Eve's Floral Creations in Glenside

3:30 **Making Fruit Liqueurs**
Ana Biddle, Harvest Show Bronze Medal winner

In the September Garden

FROM SEED OR BULBS
garlic
lettuce
tulips, daffodils & narcissus
radishes

DIVIDE
daylilies
iris
peonies
phlox

BRING IN
houseplants
herbs for overwintering
cuttings of geraniums, begonias, & impatiens

Holiday Workshops -- Already???

Now is the time to start planning for your community's holiday workshop in December. Our staff will train five or more members of your neighborhood as workshop leaders. These leaders will acquire the skills needed to conduct a workshop for the neighborhood. Fees will be charged to cover the cost of all materials. Call Eve Miller at 625-8280 to let her know that your group is interested and she will send you all the necessary information. Space is limited so call soon.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Sheila Parker wishes she had a picture of the 5-house lot across from her home in Mantua before she and her neighbors started gardening there. They started the garden three years ago at the corner of Reno and Union, with the help of **Mark Teller** and **Melinda Johnson** of Philadelphia Green. Sheila's neighbor, **Ethel Williams** told me that over the years no matter how many times neighbors hauled the trash away, more would always appear. Once Sheila, who is a life-long Mantua resident, moved to the block, things started to change. Miss Ethel says, "God sent Sheila Parker along at just the right time. She has a lot of energy."

Sheila wanted to find out what they could do about the lot. She attended monthly community meetings at nearby Grace Lutheran Church. Sheila agreed to become block captain because she discovered that's how the block could get more of the resources they needed.

Sheila has strong determination. She needed it to get the job done. The night after the first fence posts were set in place, almost all were stolen. She stayed up all night after another contractor set the fence in place. The fence remains today.

Sheila held to the belief that the garden would be a success. At first people were slow to get involved. Then **Lem Thorne** came around, with his truck, equipment, tools and the initiative to get the garden going. Miss Ethel shared her "mother wit" about gardens, having grown up on a farm in the south. **Steven Jones** took on the watering and weeding not only of his own garden, but of those like Miss Ethel who couldn't labor so intensively because of health problems.

Earl and **Helen Williams** have a large plot in the garden. Their nephew **Paul Bouges** cultivates theirs because they're not able to do the hard work. Miss Helen feels that "the garden has pulled us close together." They've gotten to know other neighbors including **Tony Williams**, **Ernesto Ellis**, **Shirley Brown** and **Madeline**, who also garden there.

Sheila works out problems with the neighborhood children, cooking hot dogs and hamburgers and building a sense of respect. She hopes to start a plot for the children by next season.

The gardening neighbors sat in the shade, sharing stories with me. We looked out at the plots crammed with squash, beans and corn that looked ready for the cooking pot. I could see just how proud they were of what they'd done together.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

September 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 15 • No. 8 • October 1993

Around the World --- People Helping People

Speaking the international language of trees, seven young adults from four countries joined Tree Tenders caring for trees in the **Northern Liberties** section of the city this summer.

Pruning, weeding and watering trees, the young adults from France, Spain, Germany and Finland attracted children from the neighborhood, who gladly pitched in, making the day a festive one. A highlight of the afternoon was a tree-planting outside of the **Seedy Acres** Community Garden at **900-922 N. Leithgow St**. The group also spent a day working with gardeners there to weave a graceful entryway into the picnic area, and installed a wooden teepee in the childrens' garden. Both were constructed from materials found in the garden. Special thanks to Tree-Tenders **Karl Olsen** and **Alex Mikuliak**; Junior Tree Tenders **Michael, Khari, Quincy** and **Nelson**; to **Walt Stankus** of **Fairmount Park**; to **Frank Peta**, block captain of the **900 block of N. Lawrence St**., who donated the tree, and to **Mindy Maslin** and **Sally McCabe** of Philadelphia Green.

The students were part of an **International Workcamps** project, a program of **Volunteers for Peace, Inc.** Volunteers from more than 40 countries have the opportunity each year to become short-term "Peace Corps" representatives, traveling to diverse countries to do community service while living with other volunteers in a group setting. Each group or "Workcamp" is sponsored for 2-3 weeks by a community group or organization, which provides food and housing for that period of time. The sponsoring agencies also coordinate the work activities for that time; work included housing rehabilitation, tree planting, art projects, murals, lot cleanup, and tot lot rehabilitation and construction.

There were two Workcamps in Philadelphia this summer; one was sponsored by the **Northern Liberties Neighbors' Association**, and the other by **Habitat For Humanity, West Philadelphia**. ***For more information or to be involved next year,*** *call* ***Vivek Ananthan****, Director of the* ***Center for Creative Activities, 635 N. 5th Street,*** *who has been coordinating Philadelphia's program for the last three years. His number is 923-7635.*

Tree Tenders on the move!! Harald from Germany and Marissa from Spain race toward trees in need on the 300 block of George St., with Junior Tenders Khari and Michael.

Autumn Soul Searching

Fall is the best time of year to think realistically about your garden. In winter, one's memory fades. Spring fever turns us all into impulsive spenders at the garden center. Right now is the time to search your soul and answer the following questions:

Was your garden a delight or a torture? Was it too dinky or too big? A great escape or a great responsibility? Wonderful looking or disappointing?

Once you've answered these queries, here are some things to consider; there are lots of things you can do to make your garden even bigger and better.

- Add bulbs: there are even some lovely ones like Lycoris that bloom in the fall.
- The latest thing they're pushing in the "Hort World" is combining herbs and vegetables into the flower border: Fennel, Purple Sage, Artichoke, Opal Basil, even lettuce
- Juxtapose different leaf textures and colors.
- Create bigger masses by dividing plants.
- Move plants for more interesting combinations.

But if your garden has become a trial and you still want something nice to look at without the hassle, think about adding some of the 'new' small blooming shrubs to your border: Caryopteris x. clandonensis makes a lovely blue fuzz for about six weeks from mid-August on. Hydrangea 'Forever Pink' stays about 3' tall. Small lilacs produce pretty spring flowers and good foliage from then on. Try a mahogany-leaved Smoke Bush or yellow-flowering Potentilia. There are lots more space eaters that look great. Once mulched they are no trouble beyond an annual pruning.

Ornamental grasses, after they are established, make a handsome, textural effect without a great deal of work. They're a little slow getting started in the spring, but worth the wait and look dramatic with their fall bloom. Some people even like them in winter.

Or if you're really disgusted with gardening, think about a mixed shrub border with a flowering perennial ground cover, and be done with the whole bother once and for all. It will still look terrific.

*Borrowed from Sara Thompson' **Garden Chat** newsletter. For more about **Garden Chat**, call Sara Thompson Landscape Design, 566-5005*

Cultivating Kids

Youth Garden Grants Available for 1994

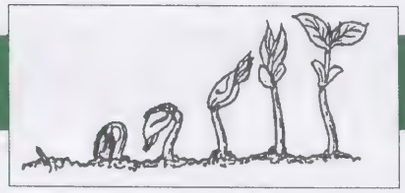
The National Gardening Association is pleased to announce that applications for the 11th annual National Youth Garden Grants are available. NGA, a member-supported nonprofit organization based in Burlington, Vermont, will expand its program this year by awarding 200 grants consisting of tools, seeds, plants and garden products to winning applicants.

In 1993, 150 schools, youth groups and community organizations from across the United States each received at least $500 worth of materials and products to support their gardening-based projects involving 15 or more children between the ages of 3-18 years.

"Gardening serves as a vehicle for learning about life, nature, food production, problem solving and teamwork, while also developing pride, enhanced self-esteem and delight in feeding and beautifying the community. Besides, it can be fun!", says David Young, NGA's Director of Youth Garden Grants.

To receive an application, send a legal-sized, self-addressed envelope *with 52 cents postage affixed to:* Garden Grants, National Gardening Association, 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT 05401. Deadline for completed applications is November 1, 1993.

What's Coming Up



Fall is For Planting!!!

TREES!!
BULBS!!
PERENNIALS!
SHRUBS!
POTTING SOIL
& SUPPLIES!
PUMPKINS
& APPLES!

This year's Tree and Bulb Sale will be different. No confusing order forms, no big checks to write in advance. Plant yourself in a bus seat and travel to Snipes Garden Center and Nursery for the shopping trip of a lifetime. Why settle for a blind date when you can pick out your plants in person?

Friday, October 15th 9:30 - 3:00

- Take advantage of wholesale prices this day only
- Carry home smaller purchases with you on the bus; PG will provide assistance in getting larger purchases delivered to Philadelphia
- Pick apples at Snipes Pick-your-own
- Visit the haunted house, ride the haywagon, and take home a Halloween pumpkin and a trick-or-treat bag

Pickup location
325 Chestnut Street -- PG office Leave 9:30, return 3:00

COST $2.50 per person reserves your spot on the bus

Bring a picnic lunch -- we will supply beverages

Name _____

Address _____

Garden Address _____

ZIP _____ **Phone** _____

Send registration to: **MINDY MASLIN 625-8280**
Philadelphia Green • 325 Walnut St • Phila, PA 19106

☐ **Please check here is you are interested in buying a tree.**

Clippings

Community News

Virginia Trosino and other volunteers of the **Seger Action Committee** of the Washington Square West Civic Association have gradually turned Seger Park located at 10th & Lombard Streets into a showpiece. These volunteers include **Mark Blair, Daniel Freeman, Ann & Marlin Kinzey, David Kniffen, Louise Morkartis, Suzanna Starkweather** and **Dave Zucker**. With the assistance of Public Landscapes Manager **Barbara Olejnik**, Virginia recently designed the landscaping for the Harold S. Levin Memorial Grove in the park. They selected beautiful Japanese lilac trees and colorful and fragrant flowers which recognize Harold and his wife Shirley's interest in Japanese gardens. The park is a great asset to the neighborhood.

Four gardeners at **The Stepping Stone Garden** at **3100 Norris Street** took their mind off the August heat when they watched a pruning demonstration from **Melinda Johnson**, Assistant Coordinator of the L & I Lotscape Program. **John Atkins**, **Maron Faison**, **Walt Fisher** and **John Graham** joined Melinda in pruning the forsythias and silverlace vine, and deadheading hostas. Melinda gave an on-the-spot lesson when she was stopped while driving through the **Strawberry Mansion** neighborhood.

The fourth graders of Meade School took what they learned this past year and put it to use in the **Meade School Summer Program**. The students planted corn, carrots, and other vegetables they had started under lights in their classrooms. **Mr. William Rowe** of the **1600 Block N. 18th Street** shared the front of his yard with the youths so they could have their own garden. PG staffers **Janet Carter** and **Deborah Hall** and Urban Gardening's **Charles Young** worked with these energetic youth. The kids showed their stuff when they built a water tower from recycled wood, sawing and nailing the wood themselves with only basic direction from the adults.

Seven students from the **Meade School Summer Program** became part of the design process for the Tree Lab which will replace an unused concrete courtyard next to their school. They worked with Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** to choose a design using a 3-dimensional model of the site complete with miniature planting beds, benches and other elements. The Tree Lab is funded by a civil rights grant from the **U.S. Forest Service** to promote urban forestry. Education Specialists **Mindy Maslin** and **Jeff Myers** are also working on this project.

Freshmen from the University of Pennsylvania met Philadelphia Green volunteers and got acquainted with new areas of the city at a workday on September 11. Working with the U of P's **Student Community Involvement Program**, Activities and Volunteer Coordinator **Flossie Narducci** arranged for about 60 students to pitch in at the Azalea Garden, Eastern State Penitentiary Ribbon of Gold, and the medians on Spring Garden Street. They went all out by weeding, watering, and planting alongside the dedicated corps of volunteers who maintain these areas so beautifully.

Staff Stuff

In August, several PG staffers attended the American Horticultural Society conference, "Children, Plants, and Gardens: Educational Opportunities". **Eugene Reeves** gave a dynamic talk about multicultural gardening with urban youth. **Mindy Maslin** led educators in the interactive games she uses: **Environmental Jeopardy** and **Tree-mendous Feats**. PG's **Sally McCabe** represented the **American Community Gardening Association** (as a board member) and explained membership benefits. **Patricia Schrieber** fielded questions from attendees about our youth programs. **Iris Brown**, PG Advisory Board member, represented **Norris Square** Greene Countrie Towne.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Garden Hints

Bringing in the Houseplants

As cold weather approaches, it's time to consider bringing your houseplants in for the winter. (Of course this may mean getting rid of a few pieces of furniture first to make room for the jungle.) In any case, it's important to check for insects and other problems before moving them, since you'll have more room to work outdoors, and pests won't seem so overwhelming.

Check leaves carefully, especially the undersides, for aphids and mealybugs, as well as caterpillars. Wash off with soap and water, then with alcohol on a cotton swab if needed. Caterpillars and bigger bugs can be picked off by hand, or, if you're squeamish, knocked off into a cup of water and disposed of.

If you feel the need, pull out the big guns for more difficult pest problems, dip or spray plants carefully while still outside, and leave them for a few days to air out before moving in. Repeat treatment if necessary, still giving it time to air out.

Start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system.

Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, heating ducts and marauding cats. Don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants as well as gardeners have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter.

Saving Summer Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40° to 45° to prevent them from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

Garden Cleanup

They're out there. Waiting. And they'll wait all winter if they have to. Then, just when you thought it was safe to go out in the garden in the spring, *they attack!!!*

They are the insects. If you don't want to add to your 1994 population of insect and disease problems, get out in the garden now and clean it up. NOW.

- Remove plants as they finish bearing. This should be an ongoing process all season long. If plants have a bad insect or disease problem, remove them completely from the garden and put out with the trash. Healthy plants can be tilled in or added to the compost pile.
- Include weeds in your search and destroy mission. Try to get the weeds from the surrounding area as well as in the garden.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

We were sorry to see them go when **Ruth, Jack** and daughter **Elizabeth Flounders** moved to Schuylkill County, PA five years ago. We had worked the Harvest Show with them, celebrated their victories in the City Gardens Contest and watched Elizabeth grow up in the community gardens the family helped tend at 43rd and Sansom. We wondered what three city folks could possibly do in a country place called Sculps Hill.

Late in summer I traveled with a group of gardeners to find out just what the Flounders had been up since then. Joining me were **Rena Ennis, Blanche Epps, Eve Miller, Rita O'Kedas, Betty Richardson, Marjorie Thornton,** and **Sharon Turner**. **Jim LaRosa** came along with a companion to round out the circle of friends.

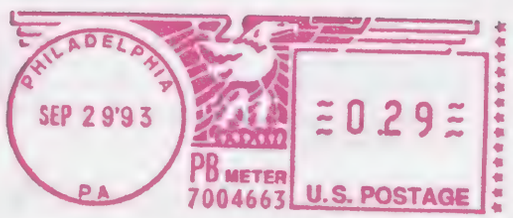
When we arrived, Ruth was there to greet us, shadowed by her dog Blue. Since it was lunch time, we did what any self-respecting gathering of Philadelphia Green would do, we ate. Well, actually, we first displayed our food, impressing ourselves with the array of delectables on the table. Ruth, as proprietor of Sculps Hill Herbs, sprinkled borage flowers in the punch, and flavored pasta salad with basil and 'currant' tomatoes. Her special treat involved a sampling of ten different heirloom tomatoes with such names as 'Ox Hart Gold,' 'Brandywine,' and our favorite - 'Mortgage Lifter'.

We sat in a grove of walnut trees, catching up on the news of our country cousins as we shared our picnic lunch. Not only did Jack stop home for lunch, but he joined Ruth in weaving the story of the creation of their new garden home. After eating, we drank in the beautiful handiwork of these talented people. Ruth introduced the circle garden full of basils, mints and artemesia. She took us down the path to the Pennsylvania-German Four Square garden, a traditional style common to the countryside. We hiked over the bridge spanning the stream to see the everlasting garden where Ruth grows flowers for drying. Dwarfed by corn stalks and sunflowers, we made our way through the vegetable patch, eyeing the healthy pumpkins, tomatoes, squash and beans along our route. Our trail led past the fancy chickens, strutting like mummers with feather-covered legs.

All too soon, our visit came to a close. Before we left, Ruth gave each of us a scented geranium so we could collect the seed for growing in next year's **Harvest Show Challenge Class.** That's so like Ruth, inspiring and forever a community gardener.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777



Flossie Narducci
139 Stenton Avenue
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course
October 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 15 • No. 9 • November 1993

Around the Neighborhood

Something Wonderful!

This September the Hispanic residents of **Norris Square** celebrated the greening of their neighborhood with a two-day Escandalo, a Spanish word for a wonderful event that people will talk about for a long time. With murals of butterflies, orchards of peaches, and authentic recreations of Puerto Rico's rich culture, Norris Square dedicates its Greene Countrie Towne and celebrates a neighborhood's 15-year battle to overcome drugs, neglect, and decay.

The eighth such effort sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green, **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne** reclaims William Penn's vision of a city where "care would be taken to leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared." Today's neighborhood began in 1693 when William Penn granted a tract of land to his friend Isaac Norris. Norris Square Park was all that remained of that green space until volunteers began to transform vacant lots into gardens with the help of Philadelphia Green.

In 1988, when the Greene Countrie Towne was first proposed, the bright promise of neighborhood revitalization seemed far away. Norris Square was a war zone where drug dealers and police struggled for control, where residents ran for cover when competing drug dealers started shooting, and where all- night antidrug vigils were weekly events. For three years, everyone kept the vision of a drugfree community. Finally the drug dealers lost their hold and moved on, and the residents could turn their energy to beautifying and greening their neighborhood.

Philadelphia Green staff members admire the Peace Pole erected in the garden at ***2nd & Susquehanna***

The **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**, an urban environmental education center for children, which residents founded in 1973, is a primary force in neighborhood greening. In an after-school program and visits to schools, Neighborhood Project staff members teach gardening and care-giving as well as self-esteem and community pride. Murals filled with rainbows, butterflies and birds—and one that shows the map of Norris Square Park—proudly display the line "produced by the kids from the Norris Square Neighborhood Project."

ESCANDAL

ANDALO'93

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Escandalo! I first heard that word last winter as **Iris Brown, Tomasita Romero** and **Sister Carol Keck** talked about the **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne** celebration on September 17. They looked forward to making the dedication of the first Hispanic Greene Countrie Towne a truly memorable experience.

Neighborhood gardeners hosted an early afternoon walking tour leading to the celebration site. **Jennifer Eastman**, a Hunter School teacher, and **Melissa**, a student, introduced their wonderful Kinder Garden.

El Batey was lush with flowers and a vine-covered arbor. Iris told everyone that the name, meaning a place of retreat, was inspired by an ancient Indian ceremonial site in Puerto Rico. We walked on to the **Raices** (Roots) Garden which contains a mural depicting the cultural diversity found in Puerto Rico.

When we reached the celebration site in **Las Parcelas**, we were invited to visit La Casita (the little house) where the children learn about traditional ways of living before electricity and running water.

The ceremony began. The governor's proclamation recognized the neighborhood's blossoming. Councilman **Dan McElhatton** and Congressman **Thomas Foglietta** expressed their appreciation. **Blaine Bonham**, Philadelphia Green's Executive Director, presented golden trowels and shovels to the gardeners and called for the unveiling of the commemorative plaque. **West Hagert** Greene Countrie Towne presented a hanging basket to welcome their sister neighborhood.

The children, dressed in colorful costumes, gathered around Iris. After she recited the words in English and Spanish, the children began to sing, proud of their heritage. The audience was spellbound and cheered when the children finished.

Iris moved quickly to the other side of the garden saying, "One last surprise," and released a flock of white doves. The birds circled, going higher and higher at each turn. A guitar played in the background. We lifted our heads and hearts as we watched the doves fly into the sky.

Muchas gracias to a dedicated group of people including **Celestino Agosto, Ramon Alvarez, Jinny Burgos, Brenvenida Carrillo, Familia Casas, Lucia Cruz, Peter Grove, Indigo, Natalie Kempner, Aida Muniz, Felicita Muniz, Sixta Paz, Angelo Rodriguez, Marie E. Rojas, Darling Rosario, Nitza Rosario, Jimmy Sanabria, Julio Santana, Julia Santana, and Sylvia Melzer**.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

November 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 15 • No. 10 • December 1993

Clean & Green Program News

Welcome Back!!

by Melinda Johnson, PG staff

Triangle Point Park at **7200 Mansfield Ave**. in Germantown has come to life once more. This five-house-lot garden went through some rough times this summer when the surrounding community gave up on it; they forgot that their garden needed to be weeded, watered and cared for.

I frequently pass by this stretch of Mansfield Ave., and would often wonder what had happened to the lot, which had started out with so much potential.

Then, one day late in the summer, I drove by and was so shocked I almost drove through the fence!! The garden had been reclaimed! The weeds hiding the plants had been pulled out, and showed that the shrubs had tripled in size in spite of the neglect. The forsythias, burning bushes, abelia, yews and junipers had grown so big that they needed to be pruned back! And to celebrate their new-found garden, they had planted an island of zinnias, marigolds and celoia that was just breathtaking.

Such initiative should always be rewarded. After congratulating **Jack Nelson**, coordinator, and assistant coordinator **Ms. Edwards**, we went on with the next step in the garden's development. The lot now has fruit trees and grape vines, all properly spaced to leave room for the arbor they plan to build next season.

The fruit trees were planted by **Karla Nelson, Maliaka Nelson, Regina Johnson** and **Tanya Johnson.**

*Philadelphia Green's **Clean & Green** Program is funded by the City's Department of Licenses and Inspections. This program is part of a larger L & I effort to clean the ever-increasing number of vacant lots in the City's neighborhoods. For the last four years L & I has funded Philadelphia Green to plant gardens with community residents on some of these lots, and a total of 190 gardens have been developed on more than 400 previously vacant lots.*

I Told You So!

by Kalyan Bhagratty, PG staff

When I first met him, **Louis Chiulli** said to me "I'm not going to just win a prize — I'm going to have a first place garden." His tiny garden at **1141 E. Columbia Ave**. in Fishtown reflects this boundless enthusiasm, with its manicured lawn and beds of shrubs and annuals. With the help of his two sons, **Rick** and **John**, he keeps both the garden and the adjacent street immaculately clean.

Mr. Chiulli has learned a lot about gardening since breaking ground in May. Through trial and error (and a few "I-told-you-so's"), he's learned that plants need a little more than "love and water," that even in our hot summers plants can be overwatered; he's also learned about spacing of plants with future growth in mind.

Gardening really seems to have opened Mr. Chiulli's eyes — he can't even go to Great Adventure without coming home with new ideas about what to plant next year. And after seeing other raised beds, he went all the way to Amtrak to recycle old railroad ties. His combinations of new plants with old weathered ties caused visiting PHS President **Jane Pepper** and Channel 10's **Diane Allen** to blink in disbelief when his wife told them the garden was only a few months old.

Ironically, his was one of the L&I sites we almost dropped because it was so difficult to reach him by phone during regular business hours. It was only when we found him by mail that he came in from clearing the lot to answer our inquiries and set up a meeting. But with his first-prize as evidence...I suppose it is now his turn to say "I told you so!" Congratulations, Louis! It has been a pleasure working with you and your family.

Clippings

Community News

Two new gardens started in 1993 by the City of Philadelphia's **L & I Lotscape Clean and Green** Program deserve special mention. The garden at **1320 - 22 W. William Street**, tended by **Barbara Jennings** and her neighbors **Annette Hunter** and **Shannon Jordan**, has made an excellent beginning. The team of **Millie Sarico** and **Mildred Navarro** can be proud of their garden at **512 - 16 Manton Street**. **Mark Teller**, PG staff coordinator tell us that the Clean and Green Program has just received its funding renewal. We have sent out letters to fifty applicants and plan to green about one hundred lots in the coming months.

❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

Mt. Kilimanjaro shines again! A group of residents from the **2000 Block of N. 20th Street** recently reclaimed the Mt. Kilimanjaro garden from an overgrowth of bamboo. Key people participating were **Rudy Fernandez**, **Angela Moses**, and her daughter **Cindy Stone** and many hardworking kids. Cindy organized a memorial daffodil planting which was sponsored by the **American Cancer Society**. The youth cleaned up, spread woodchips and planted several hundred bulbs throughout the garden.

Susquehanna Garden Club members learned a lot about rot at their October meeting. **Maureen O'Hara** of **Penn State's Urban Gardening** gave a special presentation on composting. **Lillie Adams**, **Mary Atkerson**, **Helen Clowney**, **Alice Robertson**, **Marjorie Thornton** and other club members attended the meeting.

A trolley full of people toured community gardens and murals in an outing sponsored by **Judy Wicks** and **The White Dog Cafe** and led by Activities & Volunteer Coordinator **Flossie Narducci** and **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti** Mural Coordinator **Jane Golden**. Tour highlights included **Aspen Farms**, the newest **Greene Countrie Towne** of **Norris Square**, and **Ribbon of Gold** plantings on traffic islands at **Spring Garden Street**.

The children of **Meade School** at 18th & Oxford Streets and neighbors recently joined to dedicate the **Gratz Street Community Garden** and groundbreaking for the school's new tree lab and teaching garden. Students recited the Meade School pledge and a jazz band played at this festive occasion. **Floyd Alston**, Chairman of the Beech Corporation which is funding the projects, welcomed the guests. **Alston**, Gratz Block Captain **Mary Dixon**, and Meade School Principal **Roberta Kimmelman** presented certificates of appreciation **to John Collins** of Temple University's Dept. of Landscape Architecture, **Ralph Carp**, Temple's crew leader, and PG staff **Janet Carter**, **Jeff Myers** and **Tom Mishler**.

Advisory Board member **Chet Carmichael**, and his wife **Mamie** won first prize in the City Gardens contest. The Carmichaels have been working hard to win first place since entering the contest in 1990. Chet was featured in "Digging in the Dirt" December 1991 where he vowed to win first prize. Chet, you did it!

❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

Staff Stuff

Two talented individuals recently joined Philadelphia Green's staff. **Jackie Reardon** is the new Assistant Coordinator for Special Events & Volunteers. She works with **Flossie Narducci** and successfully passed the test of her first City Gardens Contest. **Maitreyi Roy** is a landscape architect who will be working with public parks and community development corporations. She joins Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** and his team.

Staff members **Janet Carter**, **Sally McCabe**, **Kathryn Newland**, **Patricia Schrieber**, Advisory Board Chair **Hayward Ford** and board member **Gloria Trower** attended the 14th annual **American Community Gardening Association** conference in Louisville, Kentucky in early October.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

1993 CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS

Community Flower Gardens - Small

3rd **1301 Auburn Street**
Willie Mae Glisson and Neighbors
Edgar de Shields Memorial Garden
Golde Fitzpatrick and Neighbors

2nd **314 Emily Street**
Alice Murray and Neighbors
1639 Olive Street
Peggy Paul and Neighbors
Olive and Chadwick Streets
Madeline Tennant and Neighbors

1st **1622 N. 52nd Street**
James Stanley and Neighbors

Community Flower Gardens - Mid-size

3rd **3901 N. 13th Street**
Mary Walke and Neighbors
2146 N. 27th Street
Clannie Berrian and Neighbors
1730 Ellsworth Street
Learlie Blount and Neighbors

2nd **22nd and Sears**
Dave Pierce and Neighbors
1764 N. 28th Street
Virginia Dowdy and Neighbors

1st **Newkirk Memorial Garden**
Daisy Singletary

Community Flower Gardens - Large

3rd **2427-37 N. Marston Street**
Peggy Williams, Lorraine Harris &
Volunteers at Maxwell Mansion
200 W. Tulpehocken Street

2nd **The Garden Association of Market Street**
David Milne and Neighbors
169-71 W. Susquehanna Street
Iris Brown and Neighbors
44th and Locust Sts.
Adam Levine and Neighbors

1st **Loxley Court**
Philip Stetson and Neighbors
Guild House West
Jim Wilcox

Gardens of the Lotscape Beautification Program

3rd **27th and Montgomery Sts.**
Rick Brown and Neighbors

2nd **1253 N. Palethorpe Street**
Sophia Grammenos and Neighbors
1252 N. Palethorpe Street
Sophia Karipidis and Neighbors
5013 Pine Street
Rena Ennis and Neighbors

1st **1141 E. Columbia Street**
Louis Chiulli and Neighbors

1st Year Philadelphia Green Gardens

3rd **318-20 W. Susquehanna Ave.**
Irma Thomas and Neighbors

2nd **1721 W. Montgomery Ave.**
Wyn Postell and Neighbors

1st **900-06 N. Leithgow Street**
Beth and Rich Frizell and Neighbors

Eugene E. Smith Memorial Award

900-06 N. Leithgow Street
Beth and Rich Frizell and Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens -Small

3rd **906-14 Leithgow Street**
Beverly Montgomery and Neighbors
Seedy Acres
Sally McCabe and Neighbors

2nd **2404-08 N. Newkirk Street**
Anna Roundtree and Neighbors
2700 Park Ave.
Ethel Foster and Neighbors

1st **Guild House West**
Jim Wilcox and Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **621 W. Diamond Street**
Lola McNeil and Neighbors
15th and Butler
Minnie Radcliffe and Neighbors

2nd **28th and Cambria Sts.**
Annie Dee Hyman and Neighbors

1st **44th and Parrish Sts.**
Jessie Carter and Neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Large

3rd **20th and Tioga Sts.**
Grover Willis and Neighbors

2nd **1500 Grays Ferry Ave.**
Mattie Robbins and Neighbors
Johnson Homes
Gretta Fleming and Neighbors

1st **3rd and Christian Sts.**
Libby Goldstein and Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Small

3rd **12 S. 43rd Street**
Naomi Adams and Neighbors
1727-29 Mascher Street
Sandra Hatter and Neighbors

2nd **2003-05 Palethorpe Street**
Rev. Rysard Hermanowicz
2301 N. Cleveland Street
Dorothy Williams and Neighbors
1523-25 North and Sydenham Sts.
Barbara Wolfe and Neighbors

1st **4641 Westminster Street**
Jean Reed and Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **1522-24 N. 2nd Street**
Inga Burlack and Neighbors
17th and Westmoreland Ave.
Sun Circle Garden
4014-22 Ludlow Street
John Norbeck and Neighbors

2nd **41st and Chester Ave.**
Lauren Leatherbarrow and Neighbors
Locust and Sartain Streets
Mary Panciera and Neighbors
46th and Wyalusing and Merion Aves.
Hazel Parker, Elnora Jones and Neighbors

1st **Squirrel Hill Community Garden**
Steve Conn and Neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Large

3rd **1406-12 N. Hancock Street**
Sister Diana Cerchio and Neighbors
Las Parcelas
Iris Brown and Neighbors
1505-09 N. 7th Street
Carmen Delgado and Neighbors

2nd **41st and Parkside Ave.**
Willie Mae Adams and Neighbors
Green Acres
James Taylor and Neighbors

1st **25th and Spruce Sts.**
Susan Hale and Neighbors
Garden of Eatin'
25th and Dickinson Sts.

Greenest Block in Town

3rd **3900 Block Smedley Street**
Violet B. Johnson and Neighbors
3500 Block N. 24th Street
Mr.& Mrs. Obediah Foster and Neighbors

2nd **6200 Block Ellsworth Street**
John Steptoe and Neighbors

1st **100 Block Church Street**
Elaine Jermyn and Neighbors

Happy Holidays...
SUN
POTTING SOIL
Blaine
from all of us!!!

1st Year PG Garden Blocks

3rd **5600 Block of Carpenter Street**
Leemond Hopkins and Neighbors
5500 Block of Delancey Street
Deborah Jenkins and Neighbors

2nd **1400 Block of S. Paxon Street**
Samuel Hall and Neighbors
1500 Block of S. Wilton Street
Carrie Palmer and Neighbors

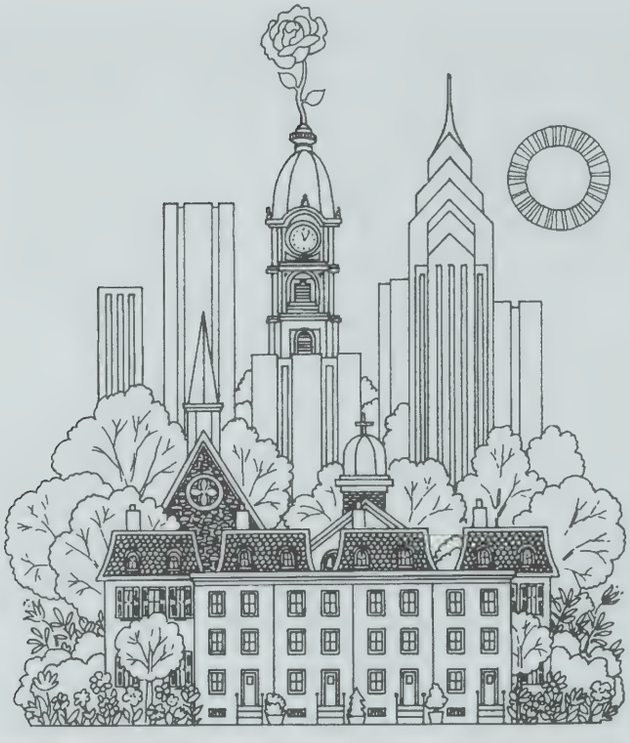
1st **5200 Block of Upland Street**
Marion Bolden and Neighbors

PG Garden Blocks

3rd **3700 Block of N. 15th Street**
Minnie Radcliffe and Neighbors
1600 Block of Edgley Street
Mary Atkerson and Neighbors

2nd **400 Block of S. 51st Street**
Rena Ennis and Neighbors
1600 Block of Toronto Street
Mae Burgis and Neighbors

1st **5000 Block of Ludlow Street**
Daisy Ree Gervin and Neighbors



Children's Garden Contest

3rd **Seedy Acres Kids**
Sally McCabe and kids
Michael Jordan Kids
Rita O'Kedas and kids

2nd **The Peace Garden**
Iris Brown and kids
2333-37 N. 20th Street
Rachael Bagby and kids
Bainbridge and Hicks
Sr. Mary Klock and kids
Welsh School
Iris Brown and kids

1st **Project Rainbow**
Sister Diana Cerchio and kids
Farson and Brown kids
Ella Artis and kids

Tree Farms

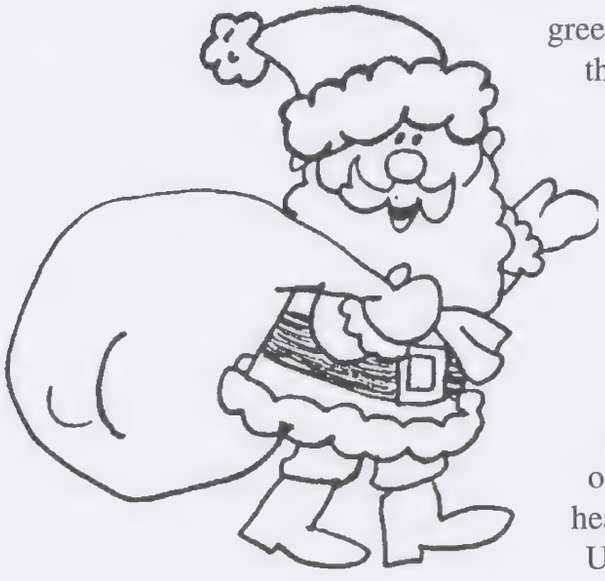
3rd **The Philadelphia School**
Lois West and kids
South Philadelphia High School
Tina Petrone, Sam Williams and kids
Vare Middle School
Larry Stier and kids

2nd **Brown School**
Michael Weiss and kids

1st **Harding Middle School**
Carol Vanagaites and kids

Cultivating Kids

MAKING HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS



Nature offers plenty of free material to use in making holiday decorations. Leaves, dried weeds, pine cones, and evergreen branches are everywhere if you know to look for them. Dried gourds, dried beans, and branches of herbs that were brought in from the garden after cleanup can also be used.

All you need is a little imagination! Add a few things like cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter, ribbon and paper clips to nature's bounty, and put your youngsters to work.

Cartoon characters are an easy place to start. Cut out the shapes from paper or cardboard and glue on beans and seeds for decoration. Then move on to imaginary beasts with pinecone bodies, walnut heads, and beans for eyes.

Use pieces of ribbon to attach paper clip hangers. Hang your creations on the tree, on doors, or on windows. Brighten up your house with them throughout the year, not just during the holidays.

What's Coming Up

December	4-5	10 AM-4 PM Bartram's Garden Greens Sale & Children's Workshop (see below)
	8	Hanukkah starts at sunset (eight days)
	21	First day of WINTER
	24	PG OFFICE CLOSED
	25	PG OFFICE CLOSED Christmas
	26	Kwanzaa starts (eight days)
	28-31	PG OFFICE CLOSED
January	1	PG OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!!!

Bartram's Garden Greens Sale & Children's Workshop Kids can make hand-dipped candles, birdseed cones, ornaments, etc. $3 per child covers all materials. Adults and kids are welcome FREE to the slide show, house & garden tours and colonial cooking demonstrations. Fresh loose greens, wreaths, swags and decorations for sale. Dec. 4 & 5, 10-4. Bartram's Garden, 54th & Lindbergh (#36 Trolley). For info, call 729-5281.

Holiday Horticulture

Best Bets with Christmas Trees

With that time of year almost here, many people will soon be buying Christmas trees. But how do you know if you're getting a good one? Here are a few easy rules to follow:

- Grab hold of some of the needles and pull hard. If they stay on the branch, chances are good that the tree is fresh.
- Try the "bounce" test. Take the tree by the trunk and bounce the base of the tree once on the ground—is the ground covered with needles? If it is, this isn't the tree for you.

Once you've picked the perfect tree, here's how to keep it that way:

- Keep it cool until you get it into the house.
- As soon as you get it in the house, make sure it's always in a couple of inches of water. Cut an inch off the base of the trunk so that a fresh section of stem is sitting in the water.
- A simple formula for keeping the tree fresh can be made from household items: add 1/4 cup Clorox, a tablespoon of liquid plant fertilizer, and 1/2 cup corn syrup (Karo) to a gallon of warm water. Use this to water the tree as the level in the drops. The corn syrup and fertilizer feed the tree, and the Clorox keeps bacteria or germs from growing in the water.
- Don't keep the tree in the house for more than ten days. After that, they dry out no matter what you feed them, and can become a fire hazard.

After the holidays are over, save your tree for use in the garden. Needles make a great mulch for acid-loving plants like azaleas, hollies and rhododendrons. Save the branches to protect early spring crops from hungry birds. If you know someone with a chipper, the whole thing could be turned into woodchips to mulch the garden. The City Streets Department usually has a special collection around the holidays specifically for Christmas trees, which are then chipped at the Recycling Center in Fairmount Park.

Success With Poinsettias

Tips from Paul Ecke's Poinsettia Ranch in CA

- Select plants with green foliage all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication that the plants have active, healthy roots.
- Look for plants that have small green buttons (cyanthia) in the center of the colored bracts. These buttons will eventually develop into little yellow flowers.
- When transporting the plants home, make sure they are protected from temperatures below 50°F. Chilling causes the leaves to drop.
- Place plants in a room where there is sufficient natural light to read fine print. You should be able to observe a strong shadow with your hand.
- Water plants thoroughly when you get them home. The entire soil area should be saturated so that water seeps through the drain hole. Remember to discard excess water—never allow poinsettias to sit in water.
- Check plants daily—water when soil feels dry to the touch.
- Fertilize plants soon after bringing them home. They are without nutrients through the whole marketing process and will be pretty hungry. Use fertilizer according to the directions on the label.
- If you keep curtains drawn during the day to conserve heat, remember that poinsettias need at least six hours of bright indirect light daily.
- Keep plants away from drafts, radiators and hot air registers.
- To prolong the bright colors, keep the temperature below 72°F in the day and 60°F at night.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The Phoenix Garden, at the corner of North 27th and French Streets in **Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne**, is a family affair. **Joyce** and **James Fisher** joined with **Barbara Williams** and **Clannie Berrian** to create a garden in the spring of 1992. Clannie, in turn, signed on her son **Melvin** and his friend **Lester McCray** to do most of the digging. Her daughters **Richelle** and **Regina** are in charge of shopping for new plants. Clannie's mother, **Sara Small** is the official weeder and gatekeeper.

All these neighbors had been inspired by the way gardens had changed other parts of Strawberry Mansion. For years, two houses had stood empty, side by side, in the middle of their block. When fire claimed one and the remains of both were hauled away, the neighbors set to work. As Clannie tells it, none of them were gardeners. "All we knew was concrete." Yet once they found out how rewarding gardening was, it became their hobby. They talk about the garden over the phone. They've been collecting gardening books that they share around. When Clannie goes to workshops and field trips, she passes on what she learns to the rest of the group. They all contribute to a monthly fund to cover the cost of new plants, fertilizer and mulch. The gardeners go in for bright colors so they add annuals in the spring. They're also sold on growing perennial flowers which they enjoy seeing come up every year.

Clannie and her neighbors still remember what things looked like when the spot was just a pile of dirt, rubble and ashes after the houses were torn down. They named their garden for the phoenix which rises from the ashes. The garden attracts its share of compliments from people who drive or walk by and remark on what a difference it makes. This spot of nature also draws birds, butterflies, bees, squirrels and crickets. The gardeners rest content after a hard day's work, aching in places they never knew they had. "In the summer, we open the windows, lie back and hear the sounds of the country right here in the city."

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper, of course

December 1993

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 16 • No. 1 • January/February 1994

It's Too Cold to Plant!!

A crowd of people from **Morton Homes** met in front of the Tenant Activities Center on the **5800 block of Osceola Place** to learn about and practice planting bulbs. The group represented fourteen sites within the Public Housing development, including three new sites on the 300 block of Rittenhouse.

Doris Walker of the **400 block of Haines** started out a non-believer. "Whatever can we do out here in the cold?? Don't you know it's WINTER??!!" But once she understood that gardening doesn't stop just because of a little cold weather, she worked harder than anyone else to plant the daffodils and tulips in the public area of the street.

Even though she's walking with a cane, **Jean Ruckers** from **357 Rittenhouse** came out to cheer on the workers. The weather even helped out, with the sun shining bright enough to make people forget it was only 40°.

Special thanks also go out to **Frederick Lewis**, who volunteered his services for the day, to **Arlene Murray** who represented three different sites, and to **Diane Alton**, who was attending a class at the Activity Center and stayed around to help with the planting.

The most impressive part of the workshop was the willingness of people to share what they had learned with people who were unable to attend because of work commitments. Representatives from the different sites took home bulbs and knowledge to be sown wherever the ground is fertile.

Philadelphia's Finest

Hats off to the **22nd & 23rd precinct Police Station** at **17th & Montgomery**. Neighborhood mover and shaker **Viola Hastings** helped **Captain Blake** and neighbor **Wyn Postell** get the large planting bed started with help from **Wagner Institute** staff members **Mark Basnage** and **Susan Glassman** and PG staff **Janet Carter** and **Deborah Hall**. Part of the Cecil B. Moore neighborhood, the garden was planted with perennials, ornamental grasses and annuals, especially salvia and killer marigolds (WOW!!) Passing neighbors were sure it would be vandalized and were very surprized when it lasted well into the fall with full color.

Many thanks to those who helped so diligently to keep the garden watered during the 104° weather.

Award-winning Guild House garden on Fairmount Avenue. For more information about the garden, please turn to the back page

Clippings

Community News

There's a new step in town - Garden hopping. **Strawberry Mansion** gardeners learned it in October as they traveled from garden to garden and shared mums, gardening tips, and inspiration. **Florie Dotson** provided inspiration, telling gardeners they were giving back to themselves and their neighborhood. Gardeners **Lenora Jackson-Evans** of **Marston & French Streets**, **Maron Faison & James Atkins** of **31st & Norris**, **Elaine Perrett** of **31st & Fontain** and **Clannie Berrian, Richelle Berrian & Lester McRay** of **The Phoenix Garden** at **27th & French** provided the sites where learning was shared. **John Dotson**, **Jim Norris**, **Dolores Smith**, and **Rosalie Young** provided their point of view. PG Education staffers **Patricia Schrieber** and **Janet Carter** provided their know-how. To top it all off **Sara Small** of The Phoenix Garden provided wonderful food.

The traditional Thanksgiving feast at **Vare Middle School** featured a real treat this year - grape pies. Students picked grapes from their garden for the first time from vines which were planted back in 1988 by former PG staffer Betty Tyler. Special Education Teacher **Larry Stier**, PG Advisory Board Member, has taught his students well that good gardens make for good eating.

Congratulations to PG Advisory Board Chair **Hayward Ford** for receiving the November Volunteer of the Month Award from **Hotel Atop the Bellevue**. Hayward was honored for his volunteer work with four organizations during a special breakfast ceremony in the hotel's Barrymore Room. Representatives from **Aspen Farms**, **Neighborhood Gardens Association**, **the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**, and **Penn State's Urban Gardening** listened as the manager of the hotel read a beautiful tribute to Hayward and presented him with a crystal timepiece.

Many thanks to retiring Advisory Board members **Jim Alexander**, **Maya Clement**, **Trudy Fuchs**, **Jim La Rosa**, **and Alice Woods**. We hope you will keep your "hands in" the soil and Philadelphia Green activities.

Staff Stuff

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society celebrated the holiday season by featuring art and crafts created by its staff in the exhibit area. Thanks to **Kathy Mills**, PHS Horticulturist, who coordinated the show in a labor of love. Participants included **Jane Alling**, **Linda Dickerson**, **Ann Domalevicz**, **Elsa Efran**, **Lillian Greenberg**, **Ellen Gross**, **Betsy Gullan**, **Liz Hauck**, **Madeline Marr**, **Mindy Maslin**, **Sally McCabe**, **Marge Meer**, **Eve Miller**, **Tom Mishler**, **Kathryn Newland**, **Barbara Olejnik. Kathryn Newland** & **Anne Vallery**, and **Eileen Gallagher**, **Sally McCabe**, & **Joe Slane** cooperated as teams to decorate trees.

Susan Phillips was recently elected President of the Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Council. She previously held the post of Vice-President.

Clippings Editor - Eve Miller

Stay Tuned!

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, March 13, 11:30 AM
for the
1994 Gardeners' Gala Brunch
at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Admission to the Brunch includes your ticket to the Flower Show. Watch the mail for invitations later this month.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Treebune
Tree Tenders' Quarterly Newsletter • January 1994 • Funded by The William Penn Foundation

From an Acorn Grows...

"There's something about the linking of arms that helps in getting things done."

Johannah Fines,
Tree Tender
Cross Baltimore

Prior to becoming Tree Tenders, **Lauren Leatherbarrow** and others in the **Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA)** had completed a comprehensive tree inventory. At the June training, Lauren was delighted to help other Tree Tenders interested in doing similar surveys. She too had benefitted from sharing information. "When we did our inventory, we found very good resources in our group and we piggy-backed on the **Center City Residents Association**'s inventory experience," she said.

Before the leaves dropped last fall, the **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders** adapted the SHCA survey for their neighborhood. With **John Manotti** as organizer and **George Russell**, the "Map Meister," eight Tree Tenders inspected existing trees to compile a formal inventory. Inspired by the activity, 15 neighbors from blocks north of Baltimore Avenue asked to use the Cross Baltimore adaptation for their area from Baltimore Avenue to Spruce Street. Cross Baltimore Tenders anticipate more neighborhoods will take up map and pen. The Tenders expect to use the computer-inventoried data to develop an action plan for a large portion of West Philadelphia - a project likely to attract prospective funding sources.

The hoopla you heard in West Mt. Airy on Nov. 13 was **Steve Donegan**, neighbors, school officials and students planting 25 trees along the **C.W. Henry School**. The **C.W. Henry Home and School Association** received an **America the Beautiful grant** for $4,490 last spring to plant trees and develop educational programs. In-kind matches such as **Hal Rosner**'s arboreal skills, **Philadelphia Green Tree Education Specialist Mindy Maslin**'s teaching program and **Art In Motion** video services were an impressive $9,540. Neighborhood support was phenomenal. Forty-seven volunteers showed up at the tree-planting seminar Oct. 30; over 200 knuckled down for the real thing that balmy Saturday.

In **Northern Liberties**, Tree Tenders' energetic dedication has inspired civic-minded residents to revive the Beautification Committee for the community of 4,000. The committee will once again be involved in neighborhood tree inventory, seeking grants and planting, and maintaining trees from Delaware Avenue to 6th Street; Spring Garden Street to Girard Avenue.

Yes.. You're a great Tree Tender

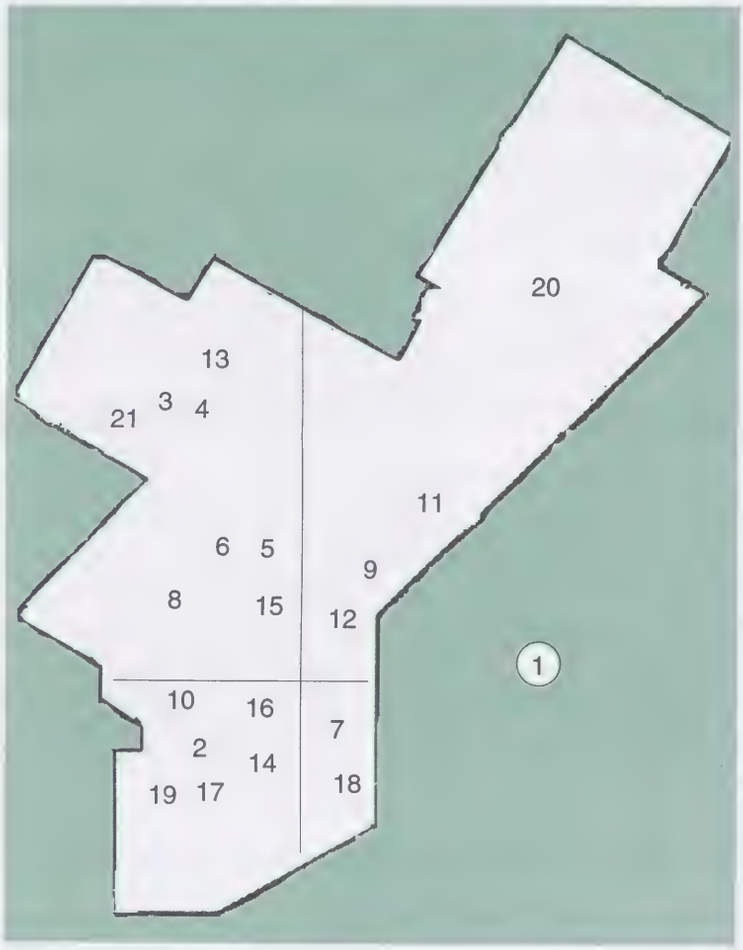
Do you have trouble walking past a tree surrounded by compacted soil without thinking of a cultivator and mulch? Do your pruning fingers start twitching when you see dead, dying, diseased or crossing branches? Do you want to knock on a door and alert the homeowner when you see a tree grate less than an inch from the tree trunk?

If you answer YES, you are not alone. There are now more than 100 **Tree Tenders** in Philadelphia and our numbers are growing. We are delighted to present this first issue of the Philadelphia Treebune - a quarterly newsletter for and by Tree Tenders. It's purpose is to update Tree Tenders on each other's projects, funding opportunities, programs and seasonal tree needs. We can also use it as a volunteer swap, enabling groups to assist each other with projects.

Enjoy this first issue and be sure to write in by Feb. 1, 1994 with updates, tips and stories we can use in our April edition.

Mindy Maslin
Tree Education Specialist

Branching Out



TREE TENDER GROUPS

1. **Collingswood Horticultural Society** Gayle Reedy, 609-854-3592
2. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders** Angie Coghlan, 729-6273
3. **C.W. Henry School** Steve Donegan, 232-5459
4. **Duval Improvement Association Tree Tenders** Madeline McGee, 848-0565
5. **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Tree Tenders** Ed Grusheski, 592-4908
6. **Friends of East Park** Anthony Langford, 763-9896
7. **Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders** Bob Pierson, 925-5971
8. **Habitat For Humanity** Frank Console/Sean Toner, 477-4639
9. **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tenders** Tom Lederer, 634-6330
10. **Larsage Neighbors** John Scott, 747-3117
11. **Norris Square** Iris Brown, 634-2227
12. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders** Sara & Karl Olsen, 922-6732
13. **Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders** Rebekah Ray, 844-7596
14. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders** Mamie Nichols, 334-2666
15. **Sixteen Hundred Block, Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders** Bill Jenkins, 765-8484
16. **Spruce Hill Community Association Tree Tenders** Lauren Leatherbarrow, 386-3905
17. **Squirrel Hill Tree Tenders** John Manotti, 898-8445
18. **Washington Square West** Virginia Trosino, 625-2599
19. **West Catholic High School Tree Tenders** Monica Brady, 365-6997
20. **Whitehall Tree Tenders** Carol Vanagaitis, 535-5301
21. **Wissahicken Tree Tenders** John Boyce, 482-1837

Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders

By Angie Coghlan

Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders have been quite busy in their little corner of West Philadelphia, 46th to 50th Streets, Kingsessing to Baltimore Avenues.

Their summer priority was to plant 32 new street trees. **Johannah Fines** headed the project - buying, transporting and overseeing the planting. The group purchased small saplings to keep costs low and transplanting simple. Tenders **Steve Conn** and **Jon Ferrin** hauled the cement excavated while enlarging tree pits to Winzinger Recycling, East Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond, which recycles clean cement and brick. Tenders **Walt Lauderbach, Andrea Kaplan** and **Angie Coghlan** were among those prepping soil and planting willow oak, red maple, silver maple, dawn redwood and crab apple trees. They targeted corner properties to get the biggest bang for the buck in all four directions.

In concert, residents on the quaint **1000 block of South Farragut Street** raised funds, bought and planted nine trees as their contribution to the community effort.

Tree Tenders and neighbors alike adopted new saplings near their homes. Through summer heat and drought, they watered their adoptees and are happy to report each tree is thriving.

Besides cultivating, the Cross group convinced some residents to do removals. Nine dead trees and stumps were removed this summer, all at property owners' expense. Yes, it can be done - even with absentee owners. The secret is doing organizational work for the interested majority and whispering that magic word, LIABILITY, to a reluctant few.

Spruce Hill Rejuvenates... with Rebates

Tree Tenders in the **Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA**) are offering a tree lover's dream. They'll give a $40 rebate to any neighbor interested in planting a new street tree or removing a dead tree. The project is **Rejuvenation of Our Urban Forest.**

Spruce Hill Tree lovers arrived at last year's June Tree Tenders class well prepared. They'd already completed a six-month inventory of trees in the University City area - 40th to 46th Streets, Market Street to Woodland Avenue. They'd identified 250 vacant tree pits and far too many dead trees. Their coffer held an America the Beautiful grant for planting. And they'd already used a SHCA donation towards inventory costs.

Fortified with Tree Tenders training, Spruce Hill Tenders sculpted a mission. "We decided our group's role was education - modeled on Philadelphia Green," said **Lauren Leatherbarrow**, Tree Tender and Spruce Hill board member. The America The Beautiful grant covered planting costs for five trees. But there was so much more to do!

Inventory in hand, Lauren, **Amanda Benner, Linda Blythe, Marianne Das and Charlotte Elsner** convinced the SHCA to donate $3,000 toward Rejuvenation of Our Urban Forest. The rebate program would reimburse neighborhood residents $40 for each tree planted or removed, up to a maximum three trees. About 10 association members have responded. Now the opportunity is open to any neighborhood resident.

"We really think it's important that people adopt their tree," Lauren said. "We don't want to just plant a tree in front of someone's house. Offering $40 is enough money to make people sit up and take notice - if they really wanted to do something."

Tree Tenders will send participants a packet of information including **Fairmount Park Commission** recommendations for pit size and tree type, and Philadelphia Green information about tree planting and tree care. They'll include a list of suggested contractors and inventory information related to growing conditions.

"We consider ourselves information brokers," Lauren added. "We can facilitate, but we cannot do it all."

Property owners are expected to be responsible for their own saplings, Lauren noted. "We'd like to teach a few people so they can take care of their own trees. We will probably hold a mini-Tree Tender class and work with block captains on a block clean up day."

Northern Liberties

Northern Liberties Tree Tenders have discovered their work reaps more than fine trees. **Karl Olsen, Sara Olsen, Mitch Deighan, Sally McCabe** and **Alex Mikuliak** inadvertently cultivated a dynamic community spirit among neighbors who'd been strangers.

As Tenders snipped branches and weeded tree pits, home owners grew to appreciate their initiative. Now they call the Northern Liberties Neighborhood Association, asking to have their trees tended. Karl said. "They are slowly becoming aware that we Tree Tenders are willing to prune and care for trees for free - to give advice and education."

When the Tree Tenders show up, neighbors come out to talk. "We explain what we're doing, then give them information about tree care," Karl added. "Some get involved in their own ways, like helping bundle up tree branches. It's amazing the concern they have. They really love the trees in the neighborhood. Their enthusiasm makes our job that much more enjoyable."

"Within a half hour of pruning trees, you've not only enhanced the look of the block," Karl continued. "You've gotten to know a lot of people you didn't know were here. Doing tree care is a simple, direct positive way to network and get to know your neighbors...

It's kinda nice."

Post This who, what, when, where

Events

January 15	10 a.m - 12 noon	***Calling All Tree Tenders!*** **Tree Care Work Day** Location to be announced. (We really need YOU.)
January 25	6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	**Grant Writing** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 *Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.*
February 8 - 11		Traveling F**ruit Tree Pruning workshops** Call Sally McCabe at 625-8280 for locations and times.
March 30	6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	**Building Your Organization;** **Reaching Out to Bring People In** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 *Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.*
April 1994	To Be Announced	**Arbor Month Programs** Call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for details.
June 1994	To Be Announced	**New Tree Tenders Training**

Resources

Fairmount Park Commission
Park Manager:
Walter Stankus 685-0014
District Arborists:
Mike Helsen 685-0014
North Philadelphia
Rich Sunday 685-1837
Center City and South
Ernie Barile 685-2577
Northwest Philadelphia
Gus Jardel 352-8645
West and Southwest
Charlie Patton 352-8794
Northeast Philadelphia

Morris Arboretum 247-5777
Plant Clinic ext. 141

Pennsylvania One-Call System Call Before You Dig
1-800-242-1776

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Hotline 922-8043

Winter Tree Care

- **Water** until the ground freezes, again at first thaw and through spring and summer. This is especially important with first and second year transplants.
- **Fertilize** mature trees in winter to promote root growth in early spring, but never fertilize newly planted trees.
- **Mulch** especially around newly planted trees to help insulate roots and retain moisture. Remember not to pile mulch around the trunk.
- **Prune** dead, damaged, and diseased branches while the tree is dormant and not producing food. Winter pruners, remove dead wood (branches with no buds) prior to pruning for form.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.

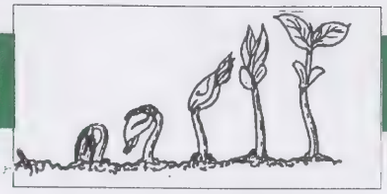
Editor: **Charlotte Kidd**, with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin & Sally McCabe.

Funding is by **The William Penn Foundation**

Send comments, stories and inquiries to
Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106.
Deadline for submissions to the April issue is February 1.

Printed on recycled paper

What's Coming Up



January 22	9-11:30 AM	**Gardens in Today's Russia** Penn State Urban Gardening, 4601 Market Street, 560-4167 Terry J. Mushovic will show slides of Russian dachas, arboretums and parks. Terry visited Russia this summer as part of an exchange program for community gardening.
January 25	6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	**Grant Writing--**How to raise money for your projects PHS, 325 Walnut St. *Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.*
January 27	9:15 - 3:00	**A Trip to Longwood Gardens** Welcome Spring....flowers from 45,000 gem-like bulbs scent the air...green lawns suggest that spring has indeed arrived. Special photography show : 50 Years of Gardens of the Brandywine Valley. *Cost is $10.* *Deadline to register is January 10th. Please see coupon below.*
January 29	9-11:30 AM	**Basic Soil Preparation with Jeff Ball** Bartram's Garden, 54th & Lindbergh Blvd, 729-5281 Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening
February 5	9-11:30 AM	**Culinary Herbs in the Garden with Doris Stahl** Penn State Urban Gardening, 4601 Market Street, 560-4167
February 8, 9, 10, 11		Traveling **Fruit Tree Pruning** workshop Call Sally McCabe at 625-8280 for details, locations and times.
February 12	9-11:30 AM	**What's in a Name** A gardener's guide to plant names, with Tim Storbeck, Director of the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation Penn State Urban Gardening, 4601 Market Street, 560-4167
February 12	9-11:30 AM	**Who's Gardening in the Neighborhood** with Charles Young A look at the rich cultural diversity in community gardens. Penn State Urban Gardening, 4601 Market Street, 560-4167

Longwood Gardens Trip -- January 27 -- see calendar above

Name _____ PHONE_____

Address _____

_____

Cost $10 per person Enclosed_____

Deadline to register is January 10. Make checks payable to PHS.

Mail to:

Patricia Schrieber PHS/Philadelphia Green 325 Walnut St. Phila, PA 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

You know how excited everyone gets when they come to the **City Gardens Contest Awards** night. Last October's event at the Academy of Natural Sciences was no different. People crowded in, elbow to elbow in the auditorium, anxious to hear the results. In the crowd were four enthusiastic gardeners from **Guild House West**, an apartment house for senior and handicapped residents in North Philadelphia. These four were part of a group of thirteen residents and employees who worked together all summer to make a beautiful and bountiful vegetable garden on the grounds of this special facility, managed by **Friends Rehabilitation Program, Inc.**

The Guild House West gardeners were thrilled to be named winners of two awards: the PNC Bank Community Garden Award and the first prize in the Small Community Vegetable Garden category. They received their awards from **Don Haskin**, **PNC Bank** Vice President and Community Affairs Director, as well as **Diane Allen** and **Herb Clarke** of **Channel 10 News.**

Diane Allen warmly congratulated them as she would a group of old friends when they came up to accept the awards. And so she would, since the gardeners had hosted a late summer visit by Diane, accompanied by **Jane Pepper,** President of **PHS**, **Amanda Smoot**, wife of PNC Bank President **Dick Smoot**, and **Noel Eisenstadt** of the **Redevelopment Authority**. The gardeners gave Diane a personal tour of their productive garden. As she left, one of the gardeners loaded her down with a generous collection of vegetables for herself and her family.

The visitors could plainly see how proud the gardeners were of their accomplishments. Residents and employees had banded together on 14 plots, sharing seeds and gardening secrets. Early in the season, one woman asked for her pastor's blessing of the entire garden and as a result, the growing season was an abundant one for them all.

The garden group worked so well together in 1993 that Tenant Council President **Mamie Jones** will ask who wants to join the group at their next organization meeting. **Jim Wilcox,** Executive Director of Friends Rehab, is pleased with the outcome. He had dreamed of such a successful partnership when he suggested that they work along with Philadelphia Green to make a garden. Community Landscape Architect **Tom Mishler** had developed an overall plan of the Guild House West grounds so the gardeners could decide just where the vegetable garden would be located.

We extend our congratulations to all the gardeners including **Mary Blocker**, **Mary Cain**, **Carl Christiansen**, **Mr. and Mrs. Decoursey**, **Helen Elum**, **Kim Evans**, **Gertrude Lowery**, **Mr. and Mrs. Miles**, **Ruth Moore**, **Beverly Starkes**, and **Mary Swanson**.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

January/February 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 16 • No. 2 • March 1994

Urban Islands in the Sun

Join other Philadelphia Green gardeners at our exhibit "Urban Islands in the Sun" at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show. The exhibit features community gardens, traffic islands and public spaces, planted by volunteers throughout the city. The flavors and colors of the tropics inhabit these "islands," from *Las Parcelas* garden in Norris Square, through the impatiens-filled City Hall courtyard, to Strawberry Mansion's Tanner Triangle garden. A Ribbon of Gold unfurls along a Spring Garden Street traffic island and the 26th Street gateway planting colorfully leads visitors from the airport to Center City. Volunteers will present their projects and the Philadelphia Green slide show to visitors from a "stage" in the Gratz St. Community Garden.

Park Renovations

Four Department of Recreation parks will undergo major improvements over the next three years, thanks to funding from **The William Penn Foundation.** Philadelphia Green will work closely with the community and the City's Recreation Department to plan and implement the renovations. Philadelphia Green Landscape Architect **Maitreyi Roy** says, "This is a wonderful way to bring the community together by giving them a voice in the future plans for the parks. The community's involvement is crucial to the success of the parks." Philadelphia Green will help organize and develop the horticultural skills of the volunteers so they can work independently.

Parks to undergo major transformations are: **Wharton Square**, 23rd & Wharton in Point Breeze; **Vernon Park**, 5800 block Germantown Avenue in Germantown; **Marian Anderson Recreation Center**, 17th & Fitzwater Street in South Philadelphia; and **Norris Square Park,** Howard & Diamond Streets in Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne.

New Gateway *by Steve Maurer, PG Advisory Board*

The co-owner of the Shopwell Market at **23rd & South Streets** has helped revitalize the **Catherine Thorne Fountain Garden** in the **South Street West** section of Philadelphia. With energy, planting donations and needed watering, **Joe Zeasday** has worked to bring the historical fountain back to its turn-of-the-century attractiveness.

Shaded by two cherry trees and protected by a picket fence bought with local recycling money, the garden bloomed heartily all summer. Now that the perennials have taken hold and a plan for the garden exists, gardeners hope that the Catherine Thorne Garden will be a serious contender in future City Gardens Contests.

Another neighbor, **Graduate Hospital**, plans to green the area around the new parking lot at nearby **22nd & South**, former site of the **"Ozone Garden."** When completed, this green space will link both ends of the **South Street West** shopping area. This beautified area will become another "Gateway" into the City, welcoming people coming across the South Street Bridge.

Clippings

Dorsha Mason of **West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne** received the Certificate of Merit for her lifetime greening contributions to the community at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. She was surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors who wanted to honor her. For forty years, Ms. Mason has carried the message of neighborhood greening wherever she goes, heading the community group that became the first Greene Countrie Towne in 1982. She is still active with local children and her neighborhood Town Watch program and continues her activism despite physical limitations.

In December we paid tribute to over 50 committed volunteers who nurture the **Azalea Garden** and **Ribbon of Gold** projects in the Art Museum area. These hard-working individuals enjoyed a buffet dinner and a festive evening. Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator **Flossie Narducci** thanked volunteers who had attended the most workdays. **Jackie Reardon**, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, helped with the preparations. As a parting gift, volunteers received paper white bulbs for a touch of spring.

Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden completed another successful season of gardening. **Greta Fleming** finished her first season as Garden Coordinator and deserves recognition for a job well done. Greta held a wrap-up meeting and presented certificates of appreciation to Fanny Blair, Charlie Robinson, Martha Bryant and Jessie Pugh who helped out neighbors and the garden whenever they were asked.

Hidden beneath the ice and snow of the **1500 block of N. Gratz**, south of **Meade School**, are about 900 bulbs ready to produce a sea of yellow daffodils. In December about 20 youth and 30 adults, representing 47 of 57 houses on the block, planted bulbs in their front beds. One example of the outstanding community spirit was a dedicated gentleman with a mending broken leg who planted bulbs for three neighbors!

1994 Challenge Class

All participants grow their entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in the class are judged according to how typical they are to a variety standard. Participants will bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 22 or Friday, September 23.

Order free seeds for the 1994 Harvest Show Challenge Class by calling 625-8280.

Impatiens 'African Queen'

The first yellow garden impatiens! Bright 1" yellow flowers, slightly cupped and enhanced with fine red veins in the center are perfectly complemented by golden-green foliage.

Nemophila v. 'Pennie Black'

An easy to grow, pretty & different annual that provides an incessant parade of 3/4" rich deep purple to black flowers with a scalloped silvery-white edge.

Pepper 'Little Dipper'

A perfect miniature bell pepper -- delicious & versatile for roasting, salads, or stuffed for hors d'oeuvres.

BUS TRIP TO Longwood Gardens Inc.

Come celebrate the glories of spring indoors and out on our first trip of the season to beautiful Longwood Gardens on March 24.

If you've gone to Longwood before, you know how incredible a visit is. If you haven't, you owe yourself a treat. Tell your friends it's a day not to be missed. Our reservation deadline is March 8th. Space is limited so send it in today.

Bring a brown bag lunch for an early spring picnic or buy lunch at the Longwood restaurant.

Cost: $10 per person

Bus leaves and returns to: PHS Headquarters, 325 Walnut St.
Time: 9:15 a.m. departure; 3:00 p.m. return

Count me in -- I love Longwood! **Deadline: March 8th**

Name _____

Address _____

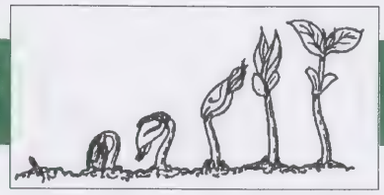
Garden Address _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Send registration to:

Patricia Schrieber
PHS
325 Walnut St
Phila, PA 19106
625-8280

What's Coming Up



Spring Sale

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 30** for the PG Spring Sale at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park.

You can take advantage of these low prices ONLY IF YOUR GROUP PRE-ORDERS. There will be plants and garden supplies available on sale day, but not at the discount price.

Annuals and vegetables will be sold by the market pack. The number of plants in a market pack will vary (4-6 plants per market pack.)

Here's what your group needs to do:

- Watch for the order forms in your mailbox.
- Photocopy enough copies of the form to distribute to your gardening neighbors.
- Give people a deadline to return completed forms and money to you. GIVE YOURSELF ENOUGH TIME TO TALLY THE ORDERS BEFORE THE PHILADELPHIA GREEN DEADLINE.
- Compile all of the orders and fill out YOUR form with the total number of market packs and supplies. PLEASE SEND ONLY THE TOTALS, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL ORDER FORMS. Keep the individual forms for your own records. Also keep a copy of the completed tally sheet.
- Enclose the total prepayment with your order and mail to us by Monday, April 11.

Send your order form with check or money order (NO CASH!!!) **payable to PHS** to: Spring Sale/Flossie Narducci, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106

All orders must be picked up the day of the Sale.
We cannot be responsible for those orders not picked up on time.

A Gardeners' Gala

Escape to "Islands in the Sun" at the Philadelphia Flower Show's Gardeners' Gala on **Sunday, March 13th.**

Start your day long vacation with a sumptuous brunch...and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Philadelphia Green

Stroll along the Show's floor, soak up the scenes of Bermuda's sand beaches, the vivid flora of Puerto Rico & the tropical treasures of Barbados..

Shop till you drop at the Flower Show Market Place, a shoppers' paradise.

Watch for invitations in the mail or call Flossie at 625-8280.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
Make your reservations early.

The $15 cost will include a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

It amazes me to think that the first Philadelphia Green Flower Show exhibit was in 1983! We're already on our twelfth exhibit, **Urban Islands in the Sun**. We thought it would be fun to take a trip down Memory Lane with some of the folks who have helped with our Flower Show exhibits over the years.

Rena Ennis remembers the giant green pea pods with their lengthy vines leading visitors through the 1985 exhibit. Each pea was bigger than a basketball! She loves how the title of our exhibits have often related to the show theme. The 1987 central feature, *"Tea at Greys Ferry,"* focused on Bartram's Garden, and our ***"Iced Tea at Greys Ferry"*** exhibit highlighted the neighboring gardens of the West Shore Greene Countrie Towne. Our ***"Shades of Philadelphia Green"*** blended well with the 1989 show theme of *"Kaleidoscope of Color."* The parade theme in our ***"Community Gardening on Parade"*** fit in well with 1986 *"Hometown U.S.A."*

Blanche Epps recalls how everybody gets down on their knees, in love with dirt. "Just a bunch of dirt dobbins," says Blanche. She recalls our first exhibit, with the block of houses and tiny corner garden that visitors could walk around. A rainbow mural seemed to draw people from all over the show, perhaps to find the pot of gold at rainbow's end.

Jo Ann Fishburn has enjoyed the wonderful camaraderie that has grown among the exhibit crew, made up of volunteers and staff. "It's getting to know people and the excitement of seeing the show come together." Jo Ann has learned many different skills, "trying any number of carpentry-related projects because we did it at the show."

Jim La Rosa felt very proud when his beautiful shady garden was featured in the 1984 exhibit ***"Many Faces of the City Gardens Contest."*** He was especially excited, after going to the show for so many years as a visitor, to suddenly be an active participant. Jim has been one of many to show off fine cooking skills in the pot luck dinners during set-up and takedown over the years.

Edna Jones arrived to help out at one exhibit years ago and has come back ever since. She really enjoys seeing things "start from a pile of dirt and transform into such beauty." Even takedown is bearable because it's a matter of "unscrambling the beauty. That's something in itself."

Pearl Romans says, "I can't imagine anything better than being involved in the Flower Show." Pearl likes knowing what the theme is and watching everything unfold.

Roxanne Christensen likes the way our exhibits show the scope of our work and make the connection between the funds that come from the Flower Show and Philadelphia Green projects. "It really points out how gardens connect people." Before she worked at the 1993 show, Roxanne would never have believed that from the huge piles of dirt and truckloads of stones, lumber and plants come ponds, waterfalls, and mountains. Best of all, our exhibits show that people are involved, and, as Roxanne says, "positive things can happen in our city."

We are so fortunate to have such dedicated people involved with us. To these and other volunteers we say thank you for your enthusiasm and energy. We couldn't have done it without you.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

March 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's

Philadelphia Green News

Special 20th Anniversary Issue Vol. 16 • No. 3 • 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN Celebrating 20 Years

20 Years and Still Growing

Jane Pepper, President, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
J. Blaine Bonham, Executive Director, Philadelphia Green

In 1974, half a dozen families gathered to plant tomatoes, zucchini and beans on a newly cleaned lot on the 4900 block of Parrish Street. Working alongside them were the first two staff members of what would grow into The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program. In September of 1993, nearly twenty years after that first garden, Philadelphia Green staff joined residents when they dedicated their Norris Square neighborhood as our city's eighth Greene Countrie Towne. In the years between, PG staff has worked with the community to start almost 2000 greening projects in neighborhoods around our city.

Philadelphia Green is about city gardeners. Thousands of Philadelphians and their suburban friends have taken trowels, shovels, pruners, and hoses to work a gardening phenomenon throughout our city. Gardeners know how infectious this activity can be and know how it can influence lives and change communities.

A wide range of supporters from the Delaware Valley have joined city gardeners in their efforts to grow a green city. For years, members of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and area garden clubs have judged in the City Gardens Contest. Businesses in the horticultural industry have donated plants and services. The corporate community has been generous in investing in a green city by sponsoring gateway plantings, community gardens and celebrations.

City government has played a critical and important role in fostering greening as an agent of community revitalization and development. The Office of Housing and Community Development led the way with its Block Grant funding of Philadelphia Green in 1978. They were joined by the Department of Licenses and Inspections in 1989; its funding of PG to create community gardens on vacant lots is an innovative approach to trash abatement. The Philadelphia Housing Authority has also chosen greening through PG as a way to involve residents in improving where they live.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' original support of our Greene Countrie Towne program encouraged us to move into the community development field with greening. The William Penn Foundation's conviction that much can change when people bring nature into neighborhoods has enabled us to plant street trees and create tree parks in North Philadelphia's low income neighborhoods. In addition, valued partnerships with the Penn State Urban Gardening Program and the Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network have supported community projects across the city.

The millions who have attended the Society's Philadelphia Flower Show have all contributed to greening the city, as the Show's proceeds form the funding foundation for the Philadelphia Green program.

Looking to the next twenty years, we envision greener neighborhood parks in which residents gather and children play. We envision landscapes and well-maintained public spaces and gateways that make Philadelphians proud and encourage visitors to return. And we envision greener neighborhoods as we work with communities to make greening an important component in rebuilding our city's neighborhoods.

As PHS celebrates the last twenty years of city gardening, we extend a heartfelt thanks to all our friends who have worked together with us to make Philadelphia green. Here's to the *next* twenty years.

photo: Ira Beckoff

The young gardeners of Norris Square represent the new generation of gardeners who will carry on the tradition of community gardening into the next century.

Urban Island Memories

Steve Maurer, Guest Editor

If the theme of this year's Flower Show is "Islands in the Sun," it is fitting that the Philadelphia Green Exhibit be called "Urban Islands." Each neighborhood garden, backyard planting, or local tree planting is truly a tiny island within the urban landscape. And from garden to garden, neighborhood to neighborhood, Philadelphia Green is the bridge that connects one garden to another garden, and one community to another.

I'm thinking...Oh my heavens, that dirty lot is going to be a garden... all those tires, and rubbish. It's going to take five years to clean it off...But the more I got involved, the more I loved it.

-- Cecilia Yep, Phila Chinatown Development Corp.

To find a *community* gardener you don't have to go to a garden. You go to a neighborhood watch meeting, a zoning hearing, or you find the person sweeping the walk in front of their home or coordinating a recycling corner. Like **Calvin Nelson** from the Francisville section of Philadelphia, called the "King of Town Watch", who plants bulbs just so he can "watch them grow," urban gardeners are those who are concerned about their neighborhood.

Whenever I pass a little piece of green, I can attach people to that spot. I like that communal feeling.

-- Dinnie Pearson, City Gardens Contest Judge

On a vacant lot in the middle of the city, rubble piles become gardens, residents become neighbors, and gardens spark renewal. That renewal is contagious and first thing you know, it's happening on other blocks, too.

In 1985, the **Philadelphia Housing Authority**, noticing the connection between active community organizations and revitalized neighborhoods, began a greening program with four housing projects. **Abbottsford, Champlost, Bartram Village,** and **Norris Homes** were chosen because of their active tenant councils. But Champlost Homes, under Tenant President **Marlene Lynch** and Tenant Coordinators **Joyce Richardson** and **Daisy-Mae Hill**, had already approached Philadelphia Green about revitalizing their area, and later saw Champlost Homes dedicated as a Greene Countrie Towne.

Philadelphia Green is now a major source of information and assistance for such diverse groups as the **West Shore Civic Association, Southwark Learning Center, Concerned Citizens of Francisville**, **Mayor's Literacy Commission**, and **Ben Franklin High School**, along with corporate sponsors such as **Pepsi Cola** and **The Philadelphia National Bank**. It has been 20 years of challenges, with 20 years of continuous involvement, activities and solutions.

And the connections flourish. Perhaps as simple as **Pearl Romans**, the 1985 Chair of the City Gardens Contest committee, sharing houseplants, and **Haroldline Trower** sharing perennials, or **Ruth Flounders** who asked for help in finding a seed source for "Scotch Bonnet." **Alta Felton** and **Rena Ennis** (later to be an Advisory Board Chair) from the **Garden of Eatin'** at 25th and Dickinson connected with the **Grass Roots Alliance for a Solar Pennsylvania** to build a greenhouse. **Ella Francis**, president of the **Parkside Civic Association**, was named Citizen of the Year

by three different institutions; the **Philadelphia Tribune, the Office of Community Development,** and **Pepsi Cola**. The **Smedley School** received a grant from the **"Gardens for All"** organization (now called the **National Gardening Association**) to start a vegetable garden coordinated by Advisory Board member **Dorothy Reisdorph.** Neighbors **James Taylor** and **Leonard Sherwood**, active coordinators of the 18th and Glenwood Street area, cleaned up a lot, revitalized a corner, found a way to move tons of dirt, and created the **Glenwood Green Acres "Farm."** Now riders on the AMTRAK train corridor see a vibrant green and growing corridor as they enter the city.

Willie Mae Bullock and **Sharon Turner**, both former chairpersons of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, while working one afternoon in their garden saw a hummingbird land on a geranium. Willie Mae remarked, "A miracle has happened on 20th Street." A small miracle, but no less important than when **Larry Stier**, a special education teacher at **Vare School** in South Philadelphia, got his classes involved in the Junior Flower Show. "Everybody gets a ribbon. They're always beaming when they walk out. We ride the 17 bus, mass transit. Every year at the Show there's a giveaway seedling in a little dixie cup with soil. Over the years we probably have had 506 of them, and maybe two have made it all the way back on that 17 bus. Somewhere at 19th & Oregon there are buses just flowering away!"

Then they started a tree farm. Larry's idea was to get the tiny saplings planted, then cultivated for one to three years, and finally planted in a suitable location,. The expertise from the **Philadelphia Green Tree Corps** helped facilitate the project, and the activity, like a successful garden, is now ongoing.

The garden became the backyard fence where women got together not only to exchange vegetables, but to talk about their problems of the day. It brought a lot of people closer together.

-- Cecilia Yep

Major victories can be measured in the success of long term projects such as the **Public Landscapes program** and the **Greene Countrie Townes**, or **Environmental Jeopardy**, (a game based on the popular television show, traveling from school to school making education fun.) But equally important are the small acknowledgments of green activity, tubs of flowers and curbside planters that start the green avalanche. Small victories that make a major contribution to the neighborhood.

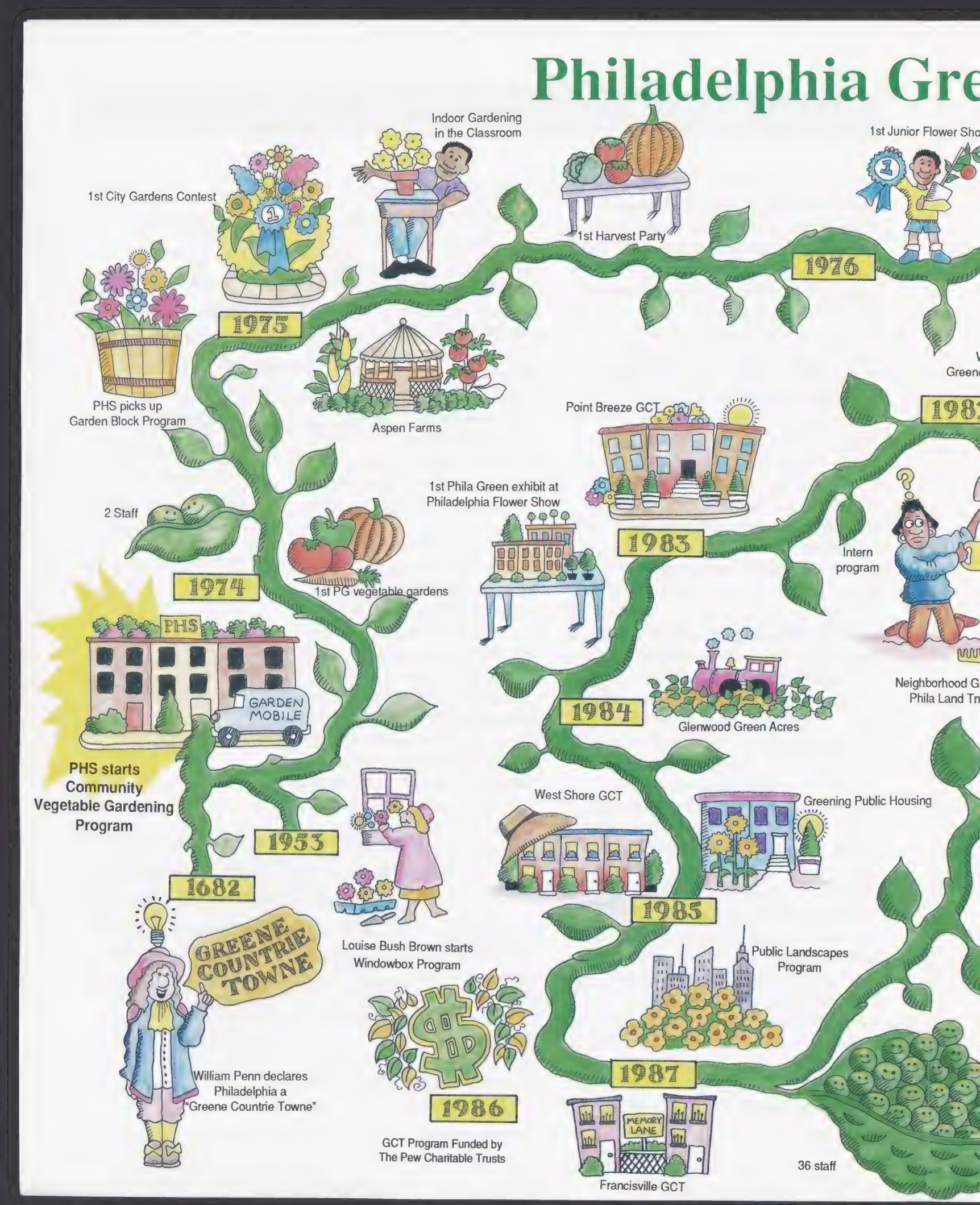
People were wild with happiness and disbelief that something nice is really happening in this trash-filled lot. The planting of trees and bushes has changed the whole environment and the attitude of the community.

-- Lily Yeh,
Garden of Arts & Humanities

Just as a gardener improves the soil by working the dirt, Philadelphia Green improves its base by working with its people. By 1984 over 600 city blocks had

(*continued page 6*)

Philadelphia Gre



Green TimeVine

Community Gardening -- BIGGER than you think!

been involved with PG projects, Now, in 1994, it is more than 2000.

The old term "flower power" stands the test of time when you see the collective harvest of gardening efforts around the city. They are also part of the network that joins gardeners from other cities through the **American Community Gardening Association (ACGA)**, to encourage community greening throughout the country. ACGA, whose purpose is "*to focus public attention on the important trend of community gardening by recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of community gardeners nationwide*, has endorsed Philadelphia Green as a role model to be imitated by other cities. We have all worked to put our city on the map nationally as the mecca for community greening.

The effects are cumulative and continuous. An award given to Philadelphia Green by the **Foundation for Architecture** for *"demonstrating an exceptional commitment to design excellence and community programs in this city and the region"* says it all. Or perhaps **Lily Yeh** from the **Garden of Arts and Humanities** says it best in a letter to Blaine Bonham: "people were wild with happiness and disbelief that something nice is really happening in this trash-filled lot. The planting of trees and bushes has changed the whole environment and the attitude of the community."

Steve Maurer is a member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, and chairs the Newsletter Committee. His memories are clipped from 15 years of the PG News.

What's Coming Up

April 9	*9:30 - noon*	***Soil, Seeds & Sun --A basic gardening workshop*** *Guild House West* *1221 Fairmount Avenue*
April 16	*10 a.m - 12 noon*	***Calling All Tree Tenders! Arbor Month Tree Care Day*** *Call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for information* *We really need YOU!*
April 23, 26, 27	*11 a.m. - 2 p.m.*	***PHS Toddler Tree Tenders Program**, Children 3-6 years* *Please Touch Museum. Phone Mindy at 625-8280.*
April 23	*9 am - 3 pm*	***Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day*** *For a brochure listing where, what and how, call the Streets Department at 686-5553 or 686-5513*
April 30		***Spring Garden Sale*** *Look for mailing. For more info, call Flossie at 625-8280*
May 5	*10 am - noon*	***Water Gardening & Spring Pruning*** *Garden of Gethsemane* *Pearl & Conestoga (near 55th & Vine)*

City Hall In Bloom

The planting of 6,000 flowers
around City Hall
is a joint project of
PNC Bank
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
and
The Fairmount Park Commission

May 1994

For more information, watch your mailbox.
If you or your group would like to participate,
call Flossie at 625-8280

Philadelphia Green Creates Common Ground

by Judy Foley

When Philadelphia Green goes out to plant, so much more than flowers bloom. Friendships do. Communities, too.

City gardeners have greened thousands of places where people live — corners, blocks, entire neighborhoods. Medians, traffic triangles, city gateways and public gardens. Gardening leaders from across the city have served for years on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board to help the program reach out into neighborhoods. Friends from West, North and South Philadelphia visit each other to swap plants, eat together, share advice and friendship.

Philadelphia Green makes connections that count - people with people, all sharing common ground. In the city's many residential areas with community gardens, Ribbons of Gold, Greene Countrie Townes and street tree maintenance; in public places such as the 26th Street Gateway, the Azalea Garden, and City Hall courtyard; with the Gardeners' Gala at the Flower Show and the annual City Gardens Contest. Gardening creates a force that leaps tall buildings in a single bound—and sociological, economic, political, and racial barriers as well.

Listen to the participants themselves tell it.

"I can't begin to tell you what a difference gardens have made in Strawberry Mansion," says Clannie Berrian, who with her neighbors turned two abandoned lots into a neighborhood flower garden on North 27th Street near Diamond Street. "These gardens put pride back into the area because they brought people together."

Rosemont pediatrician Penny Soppas, a City Gardens Contest Judge, says, "This bridge of gardens is a way to enter worlds you wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to enter."

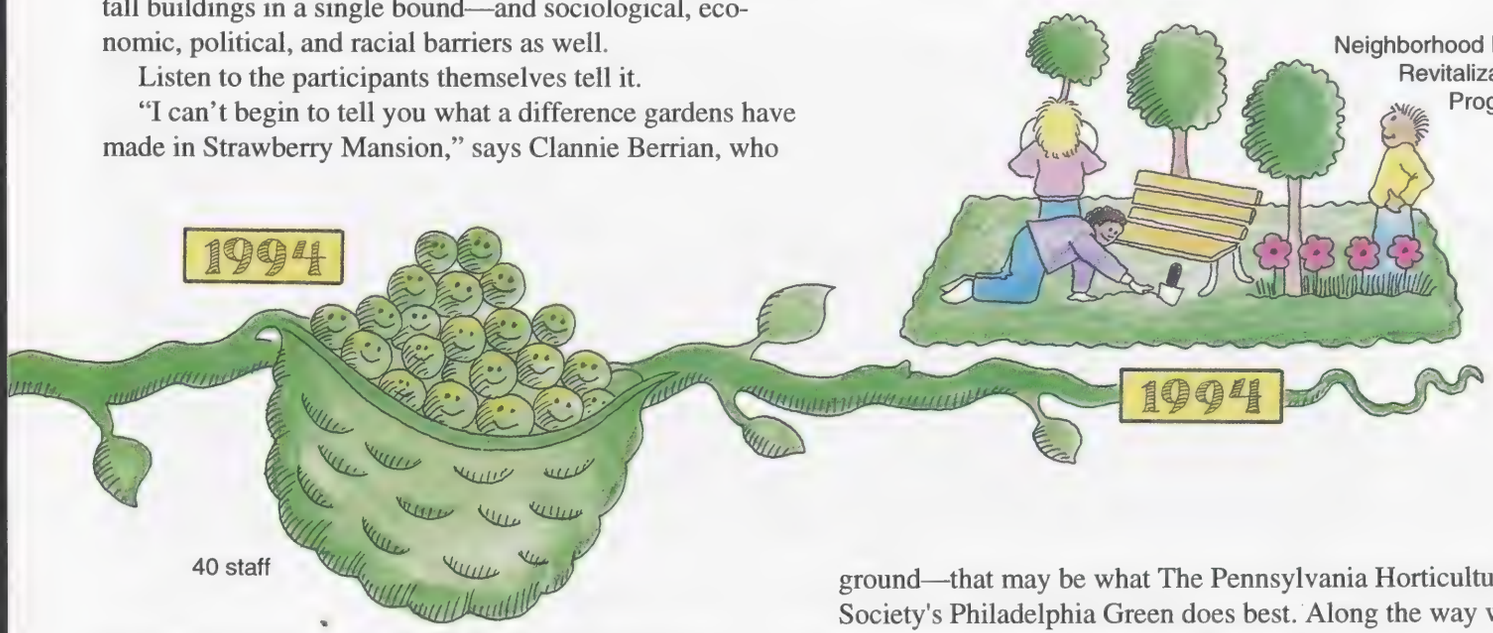
"Community gardens inspire whole neighborhoods." says TV personality Diane Allen, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Council member and co-host of the City Gardens Contest.

Community leader and greening champion Mamie Nichols believes "Philadelphia Green cultivates a sense of collaboration, working with people to make their hopes and dreams not only come true, but live on and grow. Greening becomes a tool for change, transforming people and their neighborhoods."

Frank Keiser, long-time member of the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and active Harvest Show committee person, says, "This show is an opportunity for gardeners from the city and the suburbs to learn that they have a whole lot in common. I have vivid memories of people once afraid to say hello to each other who now throw their arms around each other when they meet at the Harvest Show."

Sun Company CEO Robert McClements, Jr., says, "If PHS can look to 26th Street and not only see a Champs Elysees, but come up with a workable, well-conceived concept for it - something you can see, touch, feel and understand - they should be encouraged in that, and we want to help."

Feeling, touching, understanding, tilling common ground—that may be what The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green does best. Along the way we have all created some beautiful gardens!



Author Judy Mathe Foley benefits greatly from Philadelphia Green, working next to Eastern State Penitentiary's Ribbon of Gold, one block from Francisville Greene Countrie Towne and close to the Azalea Garden and Spring Garden Street's Ribbon of Gold.

For more information about Philadelphia Green, call 625-8280

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 16 • No. 4 • May 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Celebrating 20 Years

Susquehanna's Garden Club

by Marjorie Thornton, Susquehanna GCT

The **Susquehanna Green Countrie Towne Gardeners** were treated to a nostalgic and informative trip down memory lane at their January meeting by their most vivacious and learned guest Ms. Blanche Epps. She spoke of her grandmother Louise's ambition to pass on to the next generation the love of flowers and plants. To this end Louise used her Virginia garden as a workshop and her beautiful, colorful flowers as a backdrop. In this atmosphere Blanche and her siblings were taught how to plant and seed flowers and vegetables. She shared many of her gardening experiences, as well as an array of hand-fashioned rag dolls ranging in size from six inches to three feet. She was taught to make everything by hand, including the crocheted booties, vests, hats and underwear trimmings.

A series of oohs and ahs and a lively question and answer period followed her presentation. It was a beautiful day and an informative meeting. Good morning Ms. Epps!! And Thank you !!

The garden club held their February meeting in conjunction with Black History Month. The group compared the similarities between successful gardening and the nurturing, development and growth of our children. **Alice Robinson** shared the motivating and teaching techniques she used when baby-sitting her grandchild.

Our guest speaker, **Janet Carter**, of Philadelphia Green, held the group's attention when she explained the importance of learning one's ethnic roots. She said knowledge induces respect not only for self but also for others. Janet's hope for a better society includes peace and understanding as we share our history and culture with each other. She also reminded us that we needn't look just to the past for heroes in our culture,

A small table display paid tribute to **George Washington Carver,** Scientist (born a slave). It contained a few of the 2000 products he invented and produced from the peanut such as ink, dye, paper, butter, oil, shoe polish and sugar. Carver's introduction of crop rotation to farmers revolutionized agriculture in America and in the world.

Celebrate 20 Years with Us!!

Attendees at the Gardeners' Gala, held on the final day at the Philadelphia Flower Show, got a wonderful treat! Not only was the food excellent, the music outstanding, and the company sublime--many gardeners got to see themselves and their friends in a delightful video.

Put together using interviews of gardeners and supporters, the twenty-minute video gave a humorous and poignant overview of twenty years of Philadelphia Green.

The video will soon be available for purchase. Watch for a coupon in the June PG News.

Clippings

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society sent out a call for volunteer instructors, and the response was Tree-mendous! Volunteers **Sharon Simson, Pamela McIlvaine, Lois Dill Winkler, Jayne O'Neal Spector, Louise Hord, Frank Stefano, Matilde Salganicoff,** and **Joan Anne Skotleski** were trained in how to present a variety of pre-packaged tree programs like Environmental Jeopardy, Tree-mendous Feats, and Stuck on Trees to the age groups of their choice.

Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne provided a delicious feast of Puerto Rican favorites at the February 24th meeting of the **GCT Leaders Network** The meal was enhanced by a beautifully arranged buffet table, with pineapple centerpieces for the other tables.Thank you **Iris Brown, Fernando Casas, Guadalupe Casas, Indigo, Iris Matos, Sixta Paz, Maria Rojos, Tomasita Romero, Nitza Rosario & Julio Santana**.

At the same meeting, **Una Vee Bruce**, Executive Director of **Concerned Citizens of Francisville**, explained the success of her community's plant sale over the past three years; the most important ingredient for a successful sale is organizing in advance! Francisville GCT will be running its fourth annual plant sale this May.

Word of their success has inspired **Champlost Homes GCT** to sponsor their first plant sale May 13 and 14. Champlost is using their plant sale to make it easy for tenants to green up their neighborhood.

Evelyn Forbes, Strawberry Mansion, told us of an organization called **ROC (Raising Others' Children)**. ROC is planning a very special summer camp from July to August. Children will explore their cultural heritage to help them appreciate their own traditions. These children will also travel with their families from North to South along the Underground Railroad. Call Evelyn at 232-3641 for more information.

Clippings edited by Gigi Sheppard, Philadelphia Green Education Secretary

Special thanks to all the volunteers who participated in making the Philadelphia Green Flower Show Exhibit a success. The committee that helped construct and set up the exhibit included: **Gloria Trower,** chair, **Jo Ann Fishburn, Edna Jones, Frank Kieser, Jim La Rosa, Steve Maurer, Brenda Nealy,** and **Hayward Ford.** Thanks also to the following volunteers who enthusiastically shared their community and public gardening experiences with visitors to the Show: **Melba Axelrod, Gladys Blackwell, Iris Brown, Chet Carmichael, Charlotte Elsner, Jo Ann Fishburn, Hayward Ford, Lee Gutman, Nan Leavy, Kate Loal, Steve Maurer, Rita O'Kedas, Laura Sims, Alex Soroka, Gloria Trower, Vivian Van Story, Barbara Wolf,** and **Marc Zaharchuk**. Thanks to all!

Welcome to the following new Fairhill Garden Blocks and their contact people: **3000 North Marshall Street, Corrie Wilson; 800 West Cambria, Rafael Leigo; 2800 North 6th Street, Diane Rivera; 1300 West Auburn Street, Willie Mae Gleason; 1200 West William Street, Emily Martin; and for ACDC at 1600 West Page Street, Myrna D. Kenney and Elouise Newkirk.**

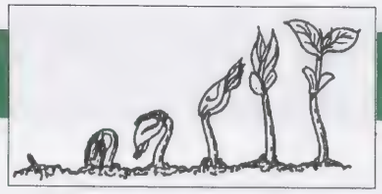
40 students and 8 faculty members from the **George G. Meade School** attended the Philadelphia Flower Show, making this the third year students have visited the show. The students particularly enjoyed the Philadelphia Green exhibit's back drop that included the Meade School.

Bache-Martin at **22nd & BrownStreet** has an annual career day. **Ms. Paulette George**, its organizer, sees it as a way for students to meet professionals to get a feel for what they can achieve if they stay in school.

Welcome, Gigi!!!

We welcome **Na'Tienya ("Gigi") Sheppard** as our new Education Secretary. Gigi comes to us from TV Channel 48. She has already earned her stripes by editing this month's **Clippings**.

What's Coming Up



April 30 — **Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale**
Horticultural Center, Fairmount Park
10 AM to 4 PM For information, call 625-8280

May 5 — **Water Gardening & Spring Pruning**
Garden of Gethsemane, Vine Street between 54th & 55th
10:00 AM - noon

May 10 — **Transplanting**
Urban Gardening Demo Garden at Las Parcelas, 2257 N. 2nd
10:00 AM - noon

May 19 — **City Hall in Bloom**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM See insert flyer. For information, call Flossie at 625-8280

May 17 -21 — **Junior Flower Show** — 1st Bank of the United States, 3rd Street below Chestnut

Mon., May 16, 11 AM to 5 PM	Registration
Wed., May 18, 9:30 - 5:00	Open to the Public
Thurs., May 19, 9:30 - 6:30	Open to the Public
Fri., May 20, 9:00 - 4:00	Entry Removal

May 27 — **Growing in Windowboxes I: Edible Herbs and Scented Geraniums**
Bring two windowboxes
Guest speaker: Aldys Davis, Harvest Show Committee
Garden of Gethsemane, Vine Street between 54th & 55th
10:00 AM - noon. For information, call Blanche Epps at 727-8903

May 27 — **Growing in Windowboxes II: Flowers from Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs**
Bring two windowboxes
Guest speaker: Sandy Manthorpe, Harvest Show Committee
Garden of Gethsemane, Vine Street between 54th & 55th
10:00 AM - noon. For information, call Blanche Epps at 727-8903

June 3 - 12 — **Philadelphia County Fair**
Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park
For more information, call Penn State's
Garden Phone at 560-4167

June 18 — **An Herb Day in the Country**
Bus trip, 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM
Reservation form in this issue

Tree Tenders Date Change

Tree Tenders spring training has moved ahead one week to June 1, 8, & 15. If you or your neighborhood group would like to join, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280

Pest - of - the - Month - Club

THE SADDAM OF GARDEN PESTS

By Charlotte Kidd

The defoliation was devastating. Peppery arugula leaves chomped to meager stems. Swiss chard, hearty and huge one day, resembling mutant Swiss cheese the next. A once thriving, green blanket of delicate sweet woodruff now a wimpy, brown mess. Coriander seedlings sacrificed in their infancy. The formerly full-leafed Lunaria, a.k.a. money plant, keeled in a pile of gray-green mush.

This was getting out of hand. The ever dependable pesticide Rotenone stopped nary a munch. Yet the enemy was nowhere in sight! Was the problem a virus, a fungus, an insidious insect?

Weeks passed; plants died; the culprit remained a mystery. Until one late night, when I wandered barefoot on the patio. Squish. A glance down. Ugh! The telltale hunk of persistent slime on the big toe. Yuk! An ugly, mottled carcass smashed on the concrete. Ah hah! The invasion of the gray garden slugs!

Slugs and snails are mollusks, more closely related to shellfish than insects. They like damp, shady gardens spots and tend to emerge in wet or humid weather after dark. Brown garden snails carry a visible coiled shell on the back; slugs have evolved to carry only a trace of shell hidden under the fleshy hood on their backs. Each creature moves by secreting a mucous (slime) trail on which its large foot glides. Slugs and snails, although ranging from 1/4 inch to 10 inches long, are difficult to spot because they prefer to dine in late evening and at night. But their slime leaves a glistening, damaging, tenacious trail visible by day.

If you are in the mood to turn the tables, so to speak, brown garden snails, originally imported to be grown as escargot for the domestic gourmand, are edible. Minus the butter sauce, they are a good, calorie-conscious protein source (12 to 16 grams of protein each, only 100 calories per 100 grams of protein). Snails fed cornmeal or lettuce then fresh herbs for several days are ready to be boiled or baked. A vinegar wash will remove the slime. Bon Appetit!

For the epicure with European taste, Philadelphia's world-renowned Le Bec Fin offers escargots in champagne sauce and hazelnut butter - a delicacy worthy of a handsome, silver cassoulet. Following a 25-year tradition, the chef poaches seven or eight imported snails in champagne and water before nesting them on a bed of butter. The appetizer costs $8.50.

Some claim slugs are edible! In my opinion, slugs are nature's garden-scale equivalent of the infamous Iraqi dictator. They invade occupied territory from underground burrows. Slugs and snails lay waste to fine gardens not only by scraping away at leaves and stems with their raspy, horn-like mouth. Their slimy trail goos up and smothers stalks and foliage - not unlike the damage done by the oil spewing skyward from damaged Kuwaiti wells.

Slugs, like deeply entrenched dictators, have outlived the odds. They've survived many millennia of man-made disasters and Acts of God - fires, floods, glaciers, droughts. A terrestrial (land) species of mollusca, slugs have been traced through fossils from 345 million years ago, the Carboniferous Period.

REFERENCES

Ellis, Barbara W., ed.; Bradley, Fern Marshall, ed., **The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control,** Rodale Garden Books, Rodale Press, 1992.

Olkowski, William; Daar, Sheila; Olkowski, Helga, **Common-Sense Pest Control,** Taunton, 1991.

CITY HALL IN BLOOM

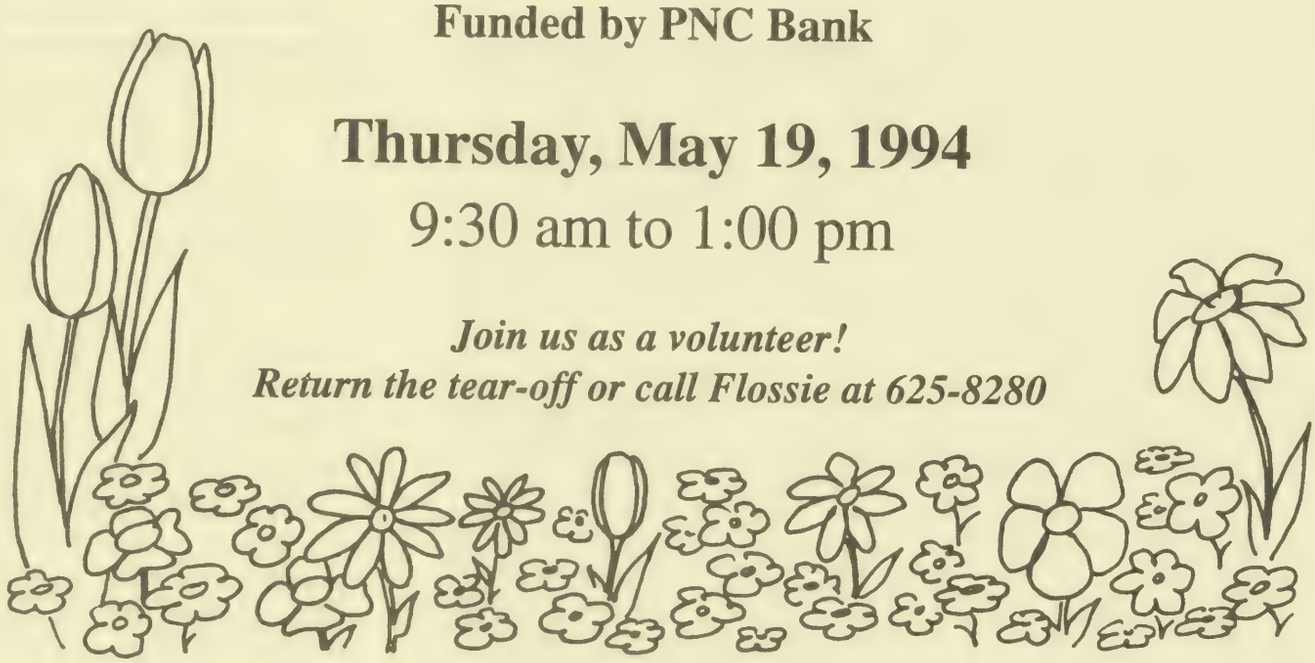
The planting of 6,000 flowers around City Hall
is a joint project coordinated by
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
and
The Fairmount Park Commission

Funded by PNC Bank

Thursday, May 19, 1994

9:30 am to 1:00 pm

Join us as a volunteer!
Return the tear-off or call Flossie at 625-8280



CITY HALL IN BLOOM

☐ Yes, I would like to help plant annuals around City Hall
☐ I am available for the RAIN DATE - Friday, May 20, 1994

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

RSVP by May 1st

Return to: Flossie Narducci
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

When battling the garden pest, consider that the slug is one of the most adaptable species on land. So any success in reducing the infestation is noteworthy. Your battle cry should be: the bigger the better. The larger slugs are more mature and likely to lay large egg masses that hatch in moist conditions. Remember, snails and slugs have perfected hunkering down over hundreds of millions of years. Persistence counts, but they've had a lot more practice.

Removal techniques vary according to personal preference and garden conditions.

LEAST TOXIC METHODS

* For insomniacs who like detail work, there's the "hand-picking" approach. That involves patrolling the garden during the night, hand-picking each pest off, then crushing it with gusto. (Two alternative disposal methods: dropping the slugs into a solution of 3 to 5 % rubbing alcohol/or salty water, then flushing them down the toilet; or dowsing them with salt [to cause fatal dehydration] and leaving their carcasses as fertilizer).

* My choice is the "get 'em drunk and drown 'em method." It's less messy, relatively humane, and involves little more than cheap beer and used yogurt containers or pony bottles. Place the cleaned yogurt container in a hole in the garden so its lip is nearly at ground level. Pour beer solution to the tip top. After using one case of Rolling Rock in three weeks, I learned that diluting with water (50/50) works fine. Or simply sink an open pony bottle of Rolling Rock in the soil up to its lip. Slugs and snails, attracted to the yeasty smell, locomote to the top of the container; sip for awhile; get a little loose; fall into the brew and drown. (Adding pastry flour to the beer makes a sticky bait that prevents last-minute get-aways.)

* Some gardeners prefer trapping the pests under flower pots or on boards, then crushing them underfoot.

OTHER CONTROL METHODS:

BIOLOGIC CONTROLS

- Ducks, toads, chickens and some dogs consider slugs and snails tasty snacks.
- Exotic predators such as the fearsome-looking rover beetle, the decollate snail or ciliate protozoan can be introduced to encourage natural selection.

BARRIER METHODS

- Barriers of copper, zinc or galvanized screening repel the pests by causing an uncomfortable reaction with the slime (mucous).
- Caustic materials such as diatomaceous earth and wood ash can be effective deterrents, as long as they remain dry.
- Sharp-edged wood shavings and oak leaves act as repellents.
- Slugs will avoid a mulch of tobacco stem meal.

HERBAL CONTROLS

- A soil drench of wormwood (Artemisia) tea is suggested as an organic control.
- The herb Hellebore has been used to keep slugs from invading grapevines.
- Quaissia is a potent, plant-based insecticide recommended for slug control.
- Commercial products made from incense cedar -- Fertosan, Slug Destroyer, Snailproof -- are available.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT

- There are commercial baits, for example mataldehyde, which can be toxic to humans, birds and some animals.

Guest author ***Charlotte Kidd*** *has been gardening with slugs for many years. She volunteers as a Tree Tender at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, and edits the Tree Tenders' newsletter, the* ***Philadelphia Treebune.***

Cultivating Kids

Our Trip to the Flower Show

Children from **Vare Middle School** visited the Philadelphia Flower Show this year, and went home with a lot of stories to tell. Here is an excerpt from their thank-you letter to Mindy Maslin, who acted as their tour guide.

March 11, 1994

Dear Ms. Mindy:

Randy,	Thanks for walking us around to see the different kinds of flowers.
Toni,	I saw a red flower.
Kolief,	Thank you for taking us to see the green flowers.
Felicia,	Thank you for helping us walk up the steps.
Vincent,	I bought me an African plant at the flower shop.
Sarah,	Thank you for letting us see the antiques.
Danielle,	I saw roses, tulips, plants, flowers and frogs.
Toni,	I saw yellow flower and pink flower.
Karesse,	We saw a lot of flowers; we went back to school on SEPTA.
Lisa,	It was pouring.
Randy,	I seen lots of ladies at the flower show.
Felicia,	I saw real sexy guys at the Flower Show.
Eugene,	I bought some flowers for me.
Toni,	I saw a white flower.
Kolief,	Ms. Mindy got our coats and we put them on.
Danielle,	I saw yellow flowers, white, orange ones and red ones.
Vincent,	We looked around in the Flower Show.
Toni,	I saw a blue flower.
Sarah,	I saw a boy touch my hand.
Randy,	I seen hot peppers.
Karesse,	We lost Jean at the Flower Show.
Eugene,	Jean went home.
Vincent,	I seen this Fly Trap - It's a plant.
Eugene,	I was Lisa's partner.
Danielle,	I was with Rashida.
Kolief,	We just saw flowers - that's all.

Bus Trip To Sculps Hill Herbs

Join us for : "**An Herb Day in the Country**" Saturday, June 18th.

Sculps Hill Herbs owner **Ruth Flounders** was once a community gardener in West Philadelphia. She will lead us through her demonstration gardens, teaching us all we want to know about herbs - for food, fragrance, health and fun.
There will be a selection of herb plants for sale.

Ruth pictures us picnicking under the trees, talking and lying back in the sun; city kids basking in the country air. Bring a **covered dish** or **dessert** to share for our potluck picnic.

Trip cost: $10.00 per person.
Bus leaves and returns to PHS headquarters, 325 Walnut Street

Time: 8:45 a.m. departure, 5:00 p.m. return

I 'm ready for "An Herb Day in the Country!"

Name:

Address:

Zip: **Phone:**

Amount Enclosed ($10.00 per reservation) $

Return reservation to : **Gigi Sheppard**
PHS
325 Walnut Street
DEADLINE June 6 **Philadelphia, Pa. 19106**

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Larry Stier gave us these memories at a gathering of community gardening leaders, held in honor of our 20th anniversary celebration. As chair of the Junior Flower Show Committee, he invites one and all to this year's show, ***Sun Magic****, May 18th and 19th.*

The **Junior Flower Show** is for youngsters. Kids come in and don't care about what's over there but only **my** plant. Oh, I got a ribbon. They're always really happy when they walk out. They're all beaming.

The **Vare Middle School** class I teach is mentally handicapped. One of the things we usually do at the Junior Show is participate in the Challenge Class. One year we did broccoli. Every other entry was very educational and talked about how long it took to grow. We drew a picture of George Bush saying "yuuuk".

One year we did paper whites. We grew them in gravel. It worked well. Now every year we put up signs around the school that say "Favor your favorites with flowers; buy your friend a bouquet . The Lifeskills Valentine's flower sale is soon to be coming your way." We do this as a fund raiser. We take milk cartons, fill them with gravel, force the paper whites and decorate with a Valentine's motif. That's become a part of our annual curriculum. All because of the Junior Flower Show.

Gardening with Philadelphia Green involves us in much more than just the Junior Show. We originally targeted two classes of moderately mentally handicapped youngsters. Eight years later, 6th graders, 7th graders and 8th graders as well as the special education classes are involved. From 24 youngsters it's grown to 250. We're gardening as an environmental team. It has had a strong impact on the whole school.

One of the things I love so much about this project is the different ages and ethnicitities that come together and work so well. Gardening has made the "normal" youngsters and mentally handicapped youngsters work together in a very real sense. There's nothing artificial about it. So often it's the special education youngsters with more gardening experience who wind up leading, and that's incredibly powerful.

Every year we have a traditional Thanksgiving feast and over the last few years we've incorporated our produce. We always have collard greens and egg plant since we're in South Philly. We now have a special part of the garden that's only for herbs. This year I made an herb stuffing. One of the great pleasures was being able to go to the classroom and say we need sage and tarragon... go get it. The garden hadn't been tended all summer but students retained what they had learned, knew right where everything was and brought the herbs back. So not only did we have this spicy stuffing but the youngsters had a real hand in growing and picking it.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's

Philadelphia Green News

Vol. 16 • No. 5 • June 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN Celebrating 20 Years

Welcome New Groups!

On behalf of all the seasoned Philadelphia Green gardeners, we bid warm welcome to the many new faces in community greening projects this spring. Neighborhoods all around the city are bursting with gardens. Some people are growing their own food for the very first time. In other communities, annual and perennial flowers are glowing against the background of attractive trees and shrubs. A number of block groups have started growing flowers in containers along the sidewalks in their neighborhoods. We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Watch future issues for a listing of new street tree, lotscape, and special projects.

New Garden Blocks

2300 Rosewood St.	**Susan Uhl & Vincent Mancici**
300 E. Wildey/ 1000 & 1100 E. Oxford	**Patricia Johnson & Theresa Youngblunt**
2000 E. Dauphin	**Janet Sweeney**
2000 Morris	**Shirley Jackson**
800 S. 11th St.	**Connie Raucci**
2400 Jarden Terrace	**Dolores Bright**
1800 Latona	**Cathy R. Ortiz**
300 Wharton	**Clarissa Frommer**
2200 Mifflin	**Cynthia Perris**
2300 Morris	**Mrs. Marian Benton**

New Tree Plantings - Bare Root!

Ten new trees joined the ranks of what neighbors affectionately call the **"Northern Liberties National Forest"**, thanks to a grant from Philadelphia Green. The trees were planted using an experimental technique that cuts time, work and expense in half. Because the trees were shipped from the nursery bare root (without heavy root balls and soil), they were light enough to be carried by one person, eliminating the need for heavy equipment. Neighbors have planted more than 250 trees in the community in the last five years.

Congratulations to **Northern Liberties Beautification Committee** members **Karl & Sara Olsen, Mike Gagliardo, Mitch Deighan, Jeannie Thomas, Karen Kearney** and **Ann McParlin,** who organized the project as part of the neighborhood's ongoing tree program.

Bare root trees are the wave of the future, according to Northern Liberties tree planters.

Clippings

Ribbons of Gold

Our 1994 season at the **Ribbons of Gold** began on April 16 with spring clean-ups at **Spring Garden Street** and **Eastern State Penitentiary**. While Ribbon of Gold gardeners are on their own to weed, water and remove litter along the 1700, 1900 and 2100 blocks of Spring Garden Street, gardeners at Eastern State Penitentiary meet for monthly workshops the third Saturday of the month throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall and planted new ornamental grasses in the terraces in May.

Another dedicated corps of volunteers, **Friends of the Azalea Garden**, meet one Saturday each month to weed, water, plant and prune. If you would like to join them call Flossie Narducci at 625-8280 for a workday schedule.

Clippings edited by Gigi Sheppard, Education Secretary

Special Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who supported Philadelphia Green in the Office of Housing and Community Development's budget hearings before City Council in May. We appreciate all of you who collected signatures to mail to Council members and who came out to the hearing to show your support.

Blaine

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.,
Executive Director
Philadelphia Green

Longwood Trip

On March 24 a busload of Philadelphia Green gardeners and other special guests had the pleasure of going to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. There were 8 students and 30 adults in attendance. **Yours Truly** (the Clippings editor) has decided that **Naomi Ray** of **Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne** baked the best cake she had ever tasted to share on the trip. Besides the fantastic cake, Longwood Gardens had some wonderful flower arrangements. Everything from the Azaleas to the Zinnias were perfectly delightful. It's like a year-round flower show.

Additions

Two new Interns recently joined the Philadelphia Green family. **Keith Green** will be working this season with the Neighborhood Greening Program. **Kenna Clark** will be working with the Tree Planting Program.

Welcome aboard!

Chester County Garden Visits

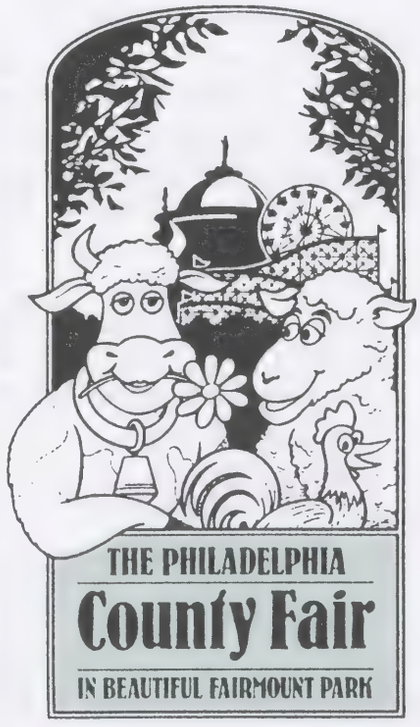
Nine gardeners traveled to garden spots in Chester County on a sunny spring day. The first two stops were garden centers in Lionville: The Gooseberry Bush and the Gardens at Montgomery's. The high point of our day was the visit to Longview Farm, the home and garden of **Joanna Reed**, long-time PHS friend and volunteer. Joanna hosted out potluck lunch on her garden terrace. She then led us on a tour through herb garden, woodland, perennial borders and meadow. Joanna's beautiful gardens proved inspirational to this group of garden friends: **Blanche Epps, Hayward Ford, Betty Hicks, Rita O'Kedas, Omotaya, Mildred Peterkin, Patricia Schrieber, Cleo Southern** and **Marjorie Thornton**.

Cultivating Kids

Bring your Junior Show entries to the County Fair!

Here's a chance to win more ribbons with your Junior Flower Show entries!
OR, get a second chance to enter if you missed the Show.
Catagories are duplicated from our own Junior Flower Show.
For complete listings, call the Penn State Gardenphone at 560-4167
Registration is Thursday, June 2, 3 - 8 PM at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park.

1. **Small Breakfast table Arrangement : "Sunrise"-**
2. **Table Arrangement for a Sunroom: "Let the Sun Shine"**
3. **Crafty Creatures : "Sun Worshippers"**
4. **Seed Sunshades: "Sun Screens"**
5. **Dried Arrangement: "Sunset Boulevard"**
6. **Sunbonnets: "For the Sunbelt"**
7. **Scarecrow: "Sun Gods"**
8. **Pressed Plant Design : "Suncatchers"**
9. **Vegetable Print : "Sunburst"-**
10. **Sundial: "The Time Is Now..."**



HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

12. Any **flowering plant** in a pot 6" or under.
13. Any **flowering plant** in a pot over 6".
14. Any **foliage plant** in a pot 6" or under.
15. Any **foliage plant** in a pot over 6".
16. Any **container grown vegetable** plant(s). One variety to a pot.
17. **Cactus and Succulents.** Any variety. One plant to a pot.
18. **Herbs.** Any variety, specify culinary, fragrant or medicinal. One plant per pot.
19. **Hanging Basket** in a pot 6" or under.
20. **Hanging Basket** in a pot over 6".
21. **Dish Garden.** An arrangement of three or more plants in a shallow planter.
22. **Terrarium.** An arrangement of three or more plants in a covered container.
23. **Green 'n' Growin'.** An *established* plant propagated by exhibitor.
24. **Garbage Gardening.** Sprouting or rooted plants from the kitchen.

Seedy Acres Garden Preserved

Through NGA's ownership, the process of creating a balance between open greenspace and housing has begun.

In 1984 we started the **Seedy Acres Community Garden.** We picked six lots for planting in the **900 block of N. Leithgow Street**; three lots were privately-owned and three were owned by the City.

As we were steadily transforming unused land into garden, our neighborhood was beginning to gentrify. Pushed by the impending development plans of new landowners, we rearranged our boundaries twice in three years. The new garden now included the City lots plus four more lots, which were owned by speculators.

By early 1986, Seedy Acres had absorbed another twenty adults and built a separate section for the kids, expanding onto a total of 18 lots.

With eight different landowners, we routinely requested the landowners' permission to continue gardening each year before planting. Whenever we were able to locate the owners, permission was readily granted.

In late 1986, a chance comment at a bus stop alerted us that we were about to lose a significant part of our garden. A local property owner with plans for development had applied for ownership of our city-owned lots. Word spread quickly and 24 hours later more than 30 gardeners and supporters assembled at a neighborhood zoning meeting to protest the acquisition. The City agreed to delay granting ownership to any developers. Our neighborhood association wrote into its bylaws that all city-owned open space in the neighborhood should remain open.

However, the only way to be sure that our open space would forever remain a garden was through ownership. Since we were a garden group and not a corporation, we could not legally own the land ourselves. Through Philadelphia Green the gardeners learned of a land trust being formed specifically to preserve community gardens: Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA).

NGA guided Seedy Acres through the process of approaching the City, the City Council, and our neighborhood association for support in making our garden a permanent entity.

Two years later, NGA took ownership of the three city-owned lots at Seedy Acres. Last year, a former neighbor donated an additional two lots to NGA.

Currently, one-quarter of our garden is permanently preserved. NGA owns the land, paying the taxes and insurance. Through an agreement which renews every five years, Seedy Acres gardeners are permitted to plant and harvest the land for as long as they wish.

We now have almost 50 gardeners growing fresh food for their families and friends. We are also yearly winners in the City Gardens Contest and PHS's Harvest Show.

Garden members have expanded their roles into community service greening-related activities. We are active participants in the Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee's neighborhood clean-ups, we sponsor community service projects via the Workers for Peace program, and we maintain a tree farm to grow some of the community's future street trees.

Through NGA's ownership, and through the determination of the gardeners, the process of creating a balance between open greenspace and housing in this mostly residential neighborhood has begun. Knowing that our land is forever preserved as a garden, we can now put our full attention on our day-to-day gardening activities and our community service projects.

Reprinted with permission from NGA's newsletter **Well-Preserved.**

Who Owns Your Garden?

If you don't own the land, it might be sold. Community gardeners interested in finding out more about preserving their garden are invited to call Claire Power at **Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust,** 625-8264.

What's Coming Up

June 3 - 12 **Philadelphia County Fair**
Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park
For more information, call Penn State's Garden Phone at 560-4167

June 18 **An Herb Day in the Country**
Bus trip, 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM
Call Gigi Sheppard at 625-8280

June 24 **Using Herbs**
10 AM - Noon
Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden,
Ridge & Glenwood Avenues

Tree Tenders Date Change

Tree Tenders spring training has moved ahead one week to June 1, 8, & 15. If you or your neighborhood group would like to join, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280

Don't Miss It!!

The City Gardens Contest registration deadline is **June 10.** Call 625-8280 to register your garden or to become a Contest Judge.

4th Annual Red Tomato Race

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the Fourth Annual Vine-Ripened Tomato Contest, sponsored by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA)**. First and second ripened tomatoes will get a prize: a gardening video featuring the researched and tested expert gardening techniques of **Jeff Ball**.

The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. **An NGA staffperson must see the tomato on the vine.** Contestants should call Neighborhood Gardens Association at 625-8264 when the tomatoes start to ripen. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

June in the Garden

Plant from seed:

beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
collards
corn
cucumbers
dahlias
herbs
okra
melons
pumpkins
squash
herbs
peppers
sweet potatoes
tomatoes

Plant from plants

broccoli
brussels sprouts
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
eggplant
columbines
peonies
irises
phlox
daylilies
asters
hollyhocks

June Hints

- Prune shrubs after they bloom
- Divide, plant, and fertilize perennials
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming
- Plant annuals
- Plant tender bulbs
- Apply mulch to plantings
- Check for insects and diseases
- Trim and plant ground covers
- Plant perennials and biennials for bloom next year
- Stake tall plants as they start to grow
- Remove dead flowers from plants to encourage new blooms
- Select or order seeds for succession planting in the vegetable garden

When starting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seedlings germinate much faster and are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care that they get enough water during this stage of development.

Summer Mulching

Mulch is any material used to cover the soil. It provides a barrier to weeds, an enrichment to the soil, and a way to retain moisture.

In the forest, nature provides a constant source of mulch by depositing leaves, twigs and other materials on the soil surface. In urban areas, nature's cycle is broken by removing this natural cover and replacing it with concrete and asphalt.

You can come to the aid of your garden by being a substitute for nature; put down an enriching material like compost or old manure, and add a good cover of woodchips, shredded bark or bark nuggets.

Since your plants will benefit greatly from the reduced weed competition and added moisture, a covering of mulch should be maintained throughout the growing season.

Getting Ready --City Gardens Contest Judging

If I Knew You Were Coming I' da Baked A Cake...

- The captain of the judging team assigned to your garden will telephone you with the date when your garden will be judged. We ask the judges to give you at least **3** days notice.
- If you can't be on hand to greet the judges, please make arrangements with a neighbor or friend to be there.
- When the captain calls, be sure to give detailed directions to your garden including any landmarks or one way streets.
- Occasionally, judges are delayed. Please be patient! If they thought they would be there at noon and aren't, it just might be that they lingered at one of the other gardens a little longer than they anticipated.
- You will need to give the judges the measurements of your garden in feet or yards. You and the team will have to pace it off if you don't have the exact size.
- Judges generally deduct points if they see plastic or silk flowers in gardens. Since the City Gardens Contest recognizes the growing efforts of gardeners, you'll risk losing points for using something artificial.
- Please extend some Philadelphia hospitality. On hot, steamy days, judges will appreciate a refreshing glass of iced tea or lemonade.

Registration Deadline for the Contest is June 10.
Preliminary Judging is from July 1 - July 20.
Final Judging is from August 1 - August 20.

20th Anniversary Video Available

Attendees at the **Gardeners' Gala** got a wonderful treat! Many gardeners got to see themselves and their friends in a delightful video.Assembled from interviews of gardeners and supporters, the twenty-minute video gives a touching overview of twenty years of Philadelphia Green.

The video is available for purchase. The cost is $7. Reserve your copy using the coupon below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: **Phone:** **Amount Enclosed (@ $7.00) $**

Return reservation to :

PG Video/ Linda Dickerson
PHS
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

***Cecilia Yep** and **Sharon Turner**, both long-time gardening leaders, were part of the same conversation at a celebration of our 20th anniversary. We share some of their thoughts with you.*

Cecilia : We had contacted the Horticultural Society to come out and help us start the Chinatown Community Garden. A lot of people were screaming, "We want a parking lot, we don't want a garden." We said "No, we have to have a little bit of everything." So one of the lots became the community garden in 19[illegible] We were able to contribute to the greater community because we introduced a lot of vegetables, many that other Philadelphians had never seen before. The garden became the backyard fence where women got together not only to exchange vegetables but to talk about their social problems. It was really a great experience for the community and it brought people closer together.

Sharon : Our community garden brought neighbors together too. Before the garden, people who lived on the same block, even next door to each other, never spoke to one another. When the gardening program started, the older people came out and said : "I remember when...." We learned a lot about the history of the neighbors, people who came from the South, what they went through. There were children who thought all vegetables came out of a frozen box. By the end of the first season it was amazing to see tomatoes that you bought hard in the supermarket be big, luscious, wonderful tasting vegetables coming out of this plot right here in the middle of North Philadelphia.

Cecilia : The second year I remember saying, "Are we going to keep up the gardening?". Everyone said "Oh, yes, it's wonderful. Do you see what's happening? People are talking to each other. It's mixing the young with the old." Some of the grandparents who couldn't bend down to garden had canes pushing the young ones to show them what to do and how to plant. The community really loved it.

Sharon : I'm looking at the people around this table whom I have met over the twenty years that I have been involved in community gardening, people that I would have never met otherwise. Ordinarily you live in your community, you go to your job, you have your circle of friends. Philadelphia Green has expanded that circle. I'm looking at Cecilia Yep of the Chinatown Garden. I remember all the things that I learned from her over the years. I think also of the people in different communities that I met through the Harvest Show and the City Gardens Contest. We share what goes on. If it weren't for community gardening we would not be exposed to the different styles of gardening, different vegetables that people grow. I am so glad that I am involved in this program. I have met many wonderful people."

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

June 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green News
Vol. 16 • No. 6 • July/August 1994

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Celebrating 20 Years

Around Public Landscapes

Azalea Garden

by Barbara Olejnik

The Azalea Garden weathered this past severe winter well, despite a few casualties. The good news is that our large swamp white oak, after struggling to adapt to its new surroundings since its planting two years ago, received some remedial tree work and now looks terrific.

We selected **Pennink Arrimour, Inc.** as our maintenance contractor this year. They started spring clean-up late in April, making sure everything would be ship-shape for the Garden Party on May 12. Our dedicated group of volunteers planted 600 Vinca 'Bright-eyes' around the Italian Fountain and a few hundred more vinca, snapdragons, cosmos and dusty millers around the pergola on May 1. Thanks to generous tree donors, this year we've also planted 12 Rosehill Ash shade trees along Kelly Drive in an ongoing effort to replace the declining London Plane trees.

The Garden Party was a blooming success, even though the day started off damp and overcast. By the time our 550 guests arrived, the sun was shining and everyone was smiling! The Garden Party raises close to half the funds needed to maintain the garden annually.

Volunteers planted 200 perennials and three 'Ruth Ellen' dogwoods (PHS Gold Medal Award plants) at our May Garden Day. In June, **Dale Nemec**, Supervisor of **Friends Hospital**'s Grounds Department, instructed us on pruning azaleas and

(continued next page)

26th Street Corridor

The 26th Street Gateway hummed with activity this spring. The meadow plantings burst out in bloom and contractors planted, weeded, edged and mowed everywhere.

The frigid winter left temporary marks on the landscape. Some of the native grasses (Andropogon) planted last fall at the **"Penrose Meadows"** area located at the intersection of **Penrose Avenue and 26th Street** succumbed to the weather. Along the **Sun Company** fence edge some of the eastern red cedars were affected by the severe cold and road salt, but we pruned them back with hopes for a good recovery.

The second phase of landscape improvements along the fence edge were completed by mid-June.

(continued next page)

Many thanks to the Friends of the Azalea Garden who planted annuals and spruced up in preparation for the Garden Party.

Azalea Garden (continued from front page)

The Azalea Garden, located in Fairmount Park behind the Museum of Art, was adopted and rehabilitated by the Society beginning in 1989. Managed through the Philadelphia Green program, its maintenance is funded through private donations and proceeds from the Garden Party.

rhododendrons. Thanks to our great volunteers the garden is looking better than ever and it's chock full of visitors every weekend enjoying the views.

Upcoming garden days for volunteers are: July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 19. Everyone is invited to come out and join us from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Azalea Garden Partygoers: above left, ***Freckles the Clown*** *and friend; right, Garden supporters* ***Robert Montgomery Scott, Dennis Green, Cindy Affleck, Morris Cheston, Carolyn Langfitt*** *, and* ***John Affleck.***

New Logo

That's not just any Tree. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is branching out with a new look, a logo that incorporates a Tree and the Year PHS was founded. This logo replaces the gardener that appears in a circle on PHS stationery and other printed items. In September, you will begin to see the new PHS logo on all of our printed pieces including the *Philadelphia Green News.* The decision to change logos came after a recent survey indicated we needed to make more people aware of who we are and what we do. Look for details on the new PHS logo in the next issue of the *News.*

26th Street (continued from front page)

By September, the entire fence will be a-bloom with ornamental grasses and yellow-flowering perennials, thanks to Sun Company's generous support.

Across the street we are working diligently on the landscape management of the railroad embankments with support from **Conrail**. Our contractor, **Moon Landscaping**, removed vines, debris, dead trees and decomposing railroad ties. Under the guidance of landscape architects from Andropogon Associates, we will plant native shrubs, flowering trees, groundcovers and more wildflowers.

This year we have teamed up again with the **Philadelphia Department of Streets** on an exciting new phase of landscape improvements on 26th Street near the Schuylkill Expressway interchange. Thanks to ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act) funds (whew!) we are planning for additional curbing, guardrail, meadow areas, hedgerows and perennials to complete the gateway at the northern end. Construction for this phase is scheduled to take place in spring 1995. Meanwhile, keep your eyes peeled for the colorful show of blooms this summer!

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Treebune
The Tree Tenders' Quarterly Newsletter • July 1994 • Funded by The William Penn Foundation

Arbor Month Activities in the Parks

Norris Square Park youth on the path to Arbor Month fun.

From early April through mid-May, from pre-schoolers to **Sierra Club Singles**, Arbor Month education and celebrations were especially welcome after the severe winter.

The celebration began on April 16 at the **Academy of Natural Sciences** where environmentally attuned singles played a fast round of Environmental Jeopardy before hitting the pavement. Outside, as the morning drizzle receded and the sun emerged, participants pruned and mulched trees and planted pansies along 19th Street.

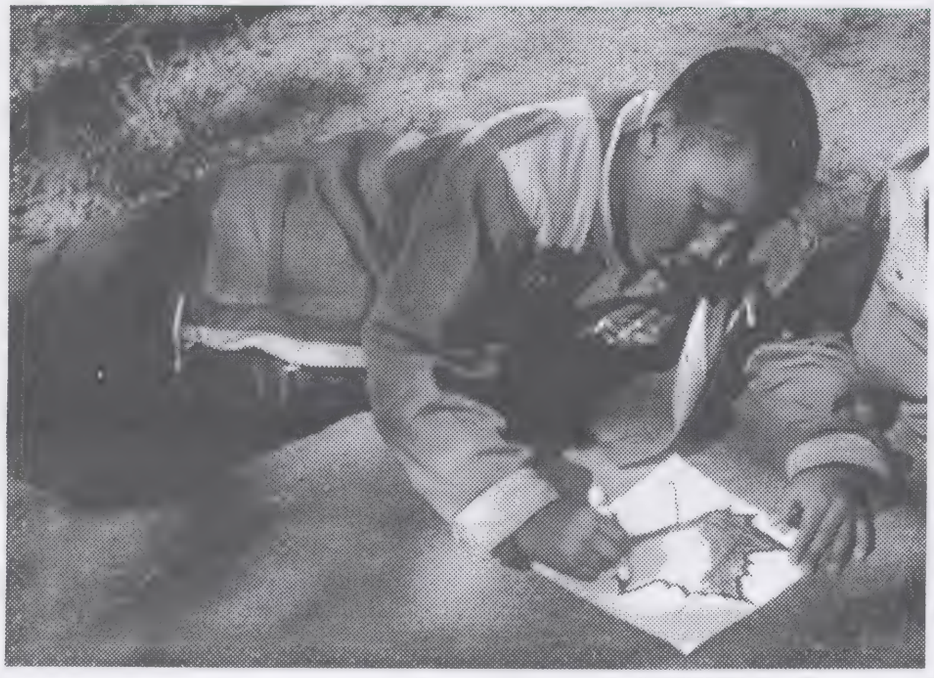
In **Norris Square Park**, cherry blossoms swirled as youngsters and oldsters celebrated a mid-month Arbor Day. **Indigo** of Norris Square and **Philadelphia Green** staff led students from **Hartranft, Welsh and Hunter Elementary Schools** and **Kensington High School** in Environmental Jeopardy, a nature scavenger hunt and mulching trees. **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** members and **Hospitality House** residents and staff helped keep the day's activities on track.

Marian Anderson Recreation Center, **Wharton Square**, and **Vernon Park** followed Norris Square's lead with Arbor Day celebrations of equal magnitude. These programs were part of the kick-off activities for the new Parks Revitalization Program encompassing all four parks.

"Tree Tenders" *are groups or individuals who have completed training in tree care with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in exchange for service to trees in their communities.*

In Marian Anderson Park, Philadelphia Green's Gigi Sheppard teachers youngsters to play "Stuck On Trees."

Activities in the Parks



Students sketch tree leaves in Vernon Park .

Arbor Month was packed full of events in neighborhood parks and schools, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the **Please Touch Museum** and the **Philadelphia Zoo**.

More than 1,000 students participated in Arbor Month programs citywide to promote park appreciation and tree awareness.

Toddlers got "Stuck on Trees" at the **Please Touch Museum** on April 23. They played the new hands-on tree game designed to teach the under-seven-set about things that grow on trees and why trees are important to us.

The youngsters also potted up tree seeds and made leaf decorations with Philadelphia Green's **Sally McCabe** and **Mindy Maslin.**

Huey Elementary School sponsored an Arbor Day Program in **Black Oak Park**. **Kate Loal**, a teacher at Huey, organized the students for a day of recycling, planting, park clean-up as well as art activities and games.

At the **Philadelphia Zoo Conservation Day** in mid-May, the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** (**PHS**) staff held afternoon family programs at the Children's Zoo.

Young ones and their parents played Environmental Jeopardy. They also learned tree planting techniques and received tree seedlings to nurture at home.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the **Speakers' Bureau** whose dedicated volunteers helped make Arbor Month activities a success:

Louise Hord
Pamela McIlvaine
Maltilde Salganicoff
Sharon Simpson
Joan Skotleski
Jayne Spector
Frank Stephano
Lois Winkler.

To start a Youth Tree Tender program at your neighborhood school, phone Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Whitehall Students Care

Green thumbs come in every size - as youngsters near the **Whitehall Recreation Center** and at the **Harding Middle School** in Bridesburg demonstrate.

Carol Vanagaitis calls them junior tree tenders - willing and eager to get down and dirty on a moment's notice. So far this spring they've planted eight Callery pears, tended and mulched scores of trees in the recreation center and school garden. Like so many children, their energy is astounding; their enthusiasm unbounded.

"I walk down the street and kids swarm around," said Carol, a Tree Tender and community activist. "They ask for brooms to sweep the sidewalk. They want trees to plant. There's no way to describe all the things they do. They're learning to tend the whole system."

In a neighborhood roughened by the grime and debris of industry and vandalism, young people are proving themselves the most valuable resource.

NEIGHBORHOOD REGULARS

Grant Blon, a certified Tree Tender and sophomore at **George Washington Carver High School**, acts as Carol's right arm. **Jerome Harris**, also a Tree Tender and sophomore at **Frankfort High School**, is great with the shovel - digging holes and mulching. **Jennifer Lutz** of **Sullivan Elementary School** reminds everyone about planting dates and activities. **Brian Woodra** of **Harding Middle School** picks up trash and broken glass, does light pruning and heavy watering.

EARTH SCIENCE STUDENTS IN ACTION

Further tapping this young potential, Carol and **Philadelphia Green's Mindy Maslin** have been working closely with **Maryanne Webb**, teacher of 7th grade earth sciences at Harding. Her students selected trees to grow in the tree lab while on field trips to **Snipes Nursery** in Morrisville, Bucks County.

Carol Vanagaitis and Harding Middle School students choose trees for the school lab.

Earth science student transplants saplings.

"They're wonderful, beautiful children. They not only dug the holes and planted the trees, they cleaned up with no complaints!" said Carol. "With Mrs. Webb, I hope that the school will stick to the tree tending curriculum."

"I think a lot of school students would like the opportunity to be junior tree tenders, to be able to take a class with Philadelphia Green to learn about caring for trees," she added.

Carol is looking for guest speakers in related subjects for the students in the Whitehall Recreation area. Anyone interested should call her at 685-1235.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAINTENANCE CREW

Adults are setting a good example, too. **"The maintenance crew at Harding Middle School** is so supportive! They mow the grass in the garden, pick up the bricks, do the trimming and edging. They manicure it so it's gorgeous," Carol added. "A kiss to every one of them."

Branching Out

Bare-Root Planting: Fast, Easy and Inexpensive!

This spring Philadelphia Green awarded three grants for bare-root trees to Tree Tenders who submitted proposals following January's Grant Writing Workshop. After learning the delicate technique of bare-root planting at **Princeton Nurseries** or from arborist Hal Rosner, Tenders picked up their trees on Saturday morning, April 23. By mid-afternoon, Tenders had planted all their trees in neighborhood parks, gardens and along streets.

LARSAGE AND CROSS BALTIMORE COLLABORATE

Shovels in hand, official and unofficial Tree Tenders were easy to spot in West Philadelphia.

Spanning a 12-block area around Baltimore Avenue and 50th Street, adults and children spent the sunny morning planting honey locusts and hawthorn saplings.

Theirs was a bounty shared.

As usual, **Cross Baltimore** and **Larsage Neighbors Tree Tenders** collaborated to make the most of available resources, noted **John Scott** of **Larsage Neighbors**. In this case, both communities benefited from a grant proposal written by **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders Angie Coughlan** and **Johanna Fines**.

Most saplings went to Larsage's Cedar Avenue residents who in February had talked with John about acquiring street trees.

"In a sense Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders are taking some of their bonanza and making it available to us," John said.

The newer Larsage group looks to Cross Baltimore for experience and encouragement - just as Cross Baltimore had already networked with Spruce Hill Tree Tenders.

"I think these connections that people make are the key thing. We learn together," John said.

Larsage Tree Tenders number five: John, **Alfred Godwin, Wayne Guise, Jacob McBride,** and **Joseph Shapiro**.

"We have about 20-25 people we can count on to pitch in on projects," John added.

Appreciative Neighbors

Watering the tree they'd just planted in front of their Cedar Street home, **Christine** and **Edward Day** were among those who sought and heartily appreciated the young street trees.

"Getting the neighbors together like this and planting trees - that's a nice effort," Christine said.

"We've been here for 10 years, waiting for a tree all that time. Today we finally got one. Later we'll get with our neighbors and talk about what flowers to buy and plant around the trees."

Meanwhile in Cross Baltimore ...

Across Baltimore Avenue on the 1000 block of S. 50th St., **Johanna Fines** and **John Ferrin** were directing Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders and volunteers in a special project.

"We planted 13 trees today - flowering pear, red maple, crab apple, red spire," Johanna explained, securing saplings to stakes. "We received a neighborhood grant from an anonymous donor in honor of a family member who died."

"Getting the neighbors together like this and planting trees - that's a nice effort," said Christine Day of Cedar Street.

Several youngsters patted earth around flowers in the tree pits, tilted watering cans and admired the day's work. **Tyshe'a Roberts, Jose Ayala,** and **Russell Stanton** had dug the planting holes. They pledged to keep a close eye on the street garden.

"It's a shame that people don't let it be," Tyshe'a lamented. "They pull up the flowers and plants. We have to watch out - and be sure to water them."

Studying the delicate branches, **Bernie Lewis** was delighted. "They planted a tree right in front of my building so I can see it! I plan to keep it pruned and keep mulch around it."

Cross Baltimore and Larsage also applied to America the Beautiful for 10 trees along Pine Street. "Cross Baltimore had a windfall and will generously make $750 available to us to make a $1,000 match," John said. "If the grant comes, we'll certainly have a tree-planting party. That's what we want to celebrate. We want people to see the trees have gone in."

KENSINGTON SOUTH

American elms once flourished in Penn Treaty Park and nearby Kensington neighborhoods. Decimated by Dutch elm disease, the native elms have all but disappeared. **Kensington South Tree Tenders** chose eight bare-root Zelkovas to plant along Second Street between Thompson and Master Streets.

"Although we have a few elms left, we'd like to have something in reserve," explained **Tom Lederer, Tree Tender** and co-chairman of the **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Executive Board**. "The Zelkova leaves remind us of the American elm. It's a very hardy species."

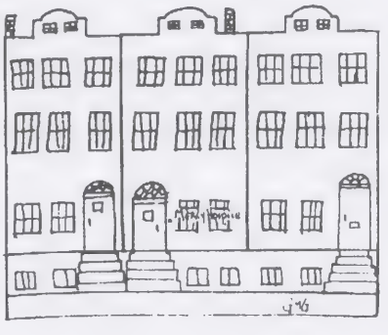
An enthusiastic mix of neighbors turned out to help, Tom said. "Fifth generation old timers, young Puerto Ricans, Palestinians, Arabs, Greeks - it was wonderful gathering of neighbors."

While Tom picked up trees that morning, **Tree Tender Joe O'Brien** got the volunteers working streetside. Men from a local halfway house added their muscle. "By the time I got back, not only did they have the tree holes dug, they'd cleaned the entire trash-strewn block that's outside a junkyard!" Tom said. "They were really good neighbors that day."

Marian Luongo of Pennsylvania State University's Master Composter program supervised mulching. "She made sure we got plenty of compost down around the trees, so they've got plenty to eat - vitamins," Tom added.

Afterward, everyone stayed for hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, Tom addded. "We would like Mindy (Maslin) to do that again because it gives us a good excuse to have a barbecue without too much work involved."

Dear Virginia & Friends of the Washington Square Greening Committee,
We are touched by your thoughtfulness in awarding the trees to Mercy Hospice. Besides being beautiful, they are symbolic of new life which is such an appropriate symbol of the efforts of our women. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to you.
S. Eileen Campbell, Administrator



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST

Crossing 10th Street, **Virginia Trosina** hauled a garbage can filled with dormant cherry saplings to the **Coles House** on Clinton Street. Minutes later **Louise Mockaitis** pulled up in a car filled with shovels and mulch. The two hurried to the backyards where they planted, watered and mulched four tender saplings in 30 minutes.

Tree Tenders and co-chairs of the **Washington Square West Civic Association**'s greening committee, Louise and Virginia were doing the fast-paced, bare-root planting drill.

Briefly looking up while she splayed roots in the moist earth, Virginia said, "Caring for trees is something to make my community better. Trees take pollution out of the air. They look and feel good!"

Holding a sapling upright, Louise talked as one smitten. "I think trees are fantastic. They do so much. They live under such adverse conditions. There are so many varieties. I just sort of fell in love with them!"

Earlier that Saturday morning they'd picked up eight columnar and zumi cherry trees at a Philadelphia Green workshop where arborist Hal Rosner explained the experimental planting technique.

Back in town, the two hurriedly planted cherry trees in the **Sisters of Mercy** garden and playground on 13th and Pine Streets, at **Coles House,** and at **McCall Elementary School** at 6th and Delancy.

"Planting all the trees in one day is demanding," Virginia said. "But placing a bare-root sapling is much easier than handling a heavy balled, burlapped tree."

In Partnership: Volunteers and the Fairmount Park Commission

Answering a Tree Tender's question or delivering a truckload of mulch, **Walter Stankus** and **Rich Sunday** participate in every Tree Tenders' training event. Walter is Park Manager II at the Fairmount Park Commission; Rich is the commission's District Arborist for Center City and South.

Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders and Fairmount Park staff work hand-in-hand to protect and maintain our urban forest.

Exploring the roles of park staff and community volunteers, we spoke with **James Donaghy, Director Operations and Landscape Management, Fairmount Park Commission** (FPC). FPC is responsible for Philadelphia's 61 parks (8800 acres) and 250,000 street trees.

"FRIENDS" CITYWIDE

"Volunteers are very important to Fairmount Park. We have 70 "Friends" groups across the city," Jim said. "We are well networked and we enjoy a good relationship with all of our "Friends" groups. Without their efforts, the park system would not look as good as it does today."

The volunteers' invaluable services run the gamut from raising money for maintenance contracts to periodic park clean-ups and trai repair, to planting and tending trees and gardens.

Their work and financial contributions are assessed at about $1.2 million annually.

While volunteer coordinator **Kate Lapszynski** deals with policy issues, Fairmount Park district managers, supervisors and arborists work directly with volunteers.

"I make sure that's a priority within our operation," Jim said. His field staff attend the "Friends" meetings and closely coordinate with volunteers about ideas and plans -- offering direction and the advantage of their expertise and professionalism.

"We want our volunteers to feel they are part of the Fairmount Park System, that their work is very important to us."

James Donaghy, Director Operations and Landscape Management, Fairmount Park Commission.

WITH TREE TENDERS

With the Tree Tenders program, park staff participates in the street tree care workshops and hands-on demonstrations.

Walt also works with community organizations applying for Small Business Association and America the Beautiful grants. Jim is the designated city representative who approves the requests. FPC is a recognized city tree expert, so its endorsement carries weight with granting organizations.

Neighborhood groups often contract with FPC to manage tree planting projects. One advantage is that FPC purchases trees guaranteed for one year.

"I think Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders is a great program; the people involved have an appreciation of the need for the urban forest," Jim said.

"We definitely need to educate the public about the need for care of our street trees and the urban forest. Because of all the stress on them, trees certainly require additional care."

"The Tree Tenders' services--limbing up of the young tree, and replacement of mulch-- are services that we could never provide through Fairmount Park," he added.

Budget cutbacks long ago eliminated FPC trimming services. Recently Fairmount Park reinstituted its tree removal and replacement program, but there's a huge backlog of requests.

Homeowners and community associations may call 685-0000 for information about tree planting in their districts.

"Beyond just the park, we work with many civic associations on

tree planting and tree care. It's nice to see the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** taking a lead in that role; they're coordinating that effort - so the same things are being done across the city in maintaining the trees," Jim noted.

The Original "Tree Tenders"

Mandated to tend Philadelphia's trees 100 years before PHS' Tree Tenders' program was designed, the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) has been key to the success of Tree Tenders.

"As the organization designated to care for city trees, FPC makes the Tree Tenders possible," noted Mindy Maslin, PHS Tree Education Specialist. "They regulate who can care for and how to care for trees. They issue permits for planting, removal and pruning. Without FPC support, Tree Tenders would really have their arms tied."

"FPC has been very helpful to us in getting the program going, providing training, and enabling people to do the work they want," she added. "They understand we can be a resource to them and they make our life easy to do that."

Bare-Root Basics

Although balled, burlapped trees have a better survival rate overall, bare-root planting has several advantages. At $20, a bare-root tree is less expensive than an $80-$100 balled, burlapped tree of comparable size. Also, digging the hole and carrying and planting the bare-root tree are relatively easy. A school-age child can lift a bare-root sapling easily. Balled, burlapped trees need three people with good backs just to move them.

Choose a dormant street tree preferably with a 2 1/2-inch caliper but not smaller than 1 1/2 inches across. Small trees are susceptible to vandalism. The larger the tree, the harder it is to damage.

With enough water and nutrients, properly planted bare-root trees should thrive. Hal Rosner, our Sidewalk Arborist, credits his high success rate to putting the trees in the ground quickly - within 20-30 minutes of receipt from a reputable supplier.

PLANTING TIPS

- Dig and prepare the planting holes before the trees arrive.
- Always keep bare-root trees in the shade. Because the roots and root hairs are vulnerable to sun, wind, cold and bruising, they should be covered at all times with a cool, damp material such as wet, shredded newspaper. Within a mere 5-15 minutes, the roots can dry out - so spray with water often while the tree's waiting to go into the hole.
- Trees not planted within the day should be heeled into soil.
- When digging, disturb the soil as little as possible. If the earth is fertile, clear away just enough for the planting. Digging too deeply will cause the tree to sink. In city conditions where the soil can be like rubble, it's sensible to dig a bit deeper to loosen soil so the roots get a better hold. If needed, supplement the soil slightly.
- Cut off broken roots above the break; clip bruised ends cleanly.
- Plant so the root flair is visible at the soil surface level. Tamp the soil repeatedly, in several layers, to anchor the tree. Shape excess soil into a circular ridge around the hole's edge, forming a saucer to hold water. Cover the saucer with about four inches of mulch. Don't pile mulch against the trunk! Fill the saucer twice with water.

PRUNING

To ensure vigorous growth, prune carefully. The central trunk usually should be left intact to build a high crown. Trim the side branches, cutting back by about one-third. Damaged branches should be trimmed off below the point of injury.

STAKING AND AFTERCARE

Newly planted trees benefit from the support and protection of two or three stakes (two-thirds as tall as the tree) tied to the tree with hose-cushioned wire or other soft material. Check the ties regularly and remove after a year to prevent girdling.

For the first few months, water daily if there's no rain. Through the first summer season, water thoroughly twice a week or as needed.

Post This who, what, when, where

THE SIDEWALK ARBORIST

By Hal Rosner,
Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

For all the care and attention I give our family street elm, I've never taken the time to assemble a tree guard that would defend the tree pit against urban stress. Yet I know street trees grown within the friendly confines of a tree guard have a tremendous advantage over those left open to various stress factors.

Take a minute and ask yourself: how safe is the square or rectangle of soil in which you've planted your neighborhood tree?

I know mine isn't. Looking at the elm growing in front of my house, I know it's completely vulnerable to a mountain bike tire, errant car door, cruising canine with full bladder, or substance abusing creature of habit.

Street trees under your care grow in a pit rarely larger that 12-square feet. So demands on the growing medium are many. Heading into summer, this mini-ecosystem will go through many changes. Urban forestry researchers tell us that trees have soil volume demands based on their crown spread above and root zone below. Simply stated: a tree in a pit must make do on limited soil resources.

The well-placed tree guard creates many opportunities for the little patch of urban forest floor.

TREE GUARDS: MORE THAN JUST TREE PRO-

- Guards which block street breezes across the pit allow mulch to start to compost. This organic material relaesed into the soil's top layers means more nutrients will be available to the root system.
- Guards keep mulch in place, enabling you to make a "saucer" (an indentation around the tree.) the saucer holds the water longer, preventing runoff and directing wter to the tree's roots.
- Other plants are now protected. The bulbs, groundcovers or mums sharing space with the tree are less likely to be tromped or picked if they have security.
- Most importantly, protecting the planting patch will prevent compaction and allow the soil to "breathe." Vital air spaces between soil particles will be preserved.

Tree guards can be assembled cheaply and quickly, often from recycled materials. Tree guards can be sleekly designed and ooze innovation. Tree guards can be iron, steel or bronze and can cost a small fortune. There are many options.

The most effective tree pit guards have foothold at all four corners. One group of neighbors placed a bowling ball-sized boulder at each tree pit corner - a naturalized effect that left open space for watering and planting.

Other popular materials include:

- Pre-fab sections of wire or wood fencing
- Pressure-treated lumber assembled into various configurations
- Bricks and Belgian blocks.

I favor structures built around the pit's perimeter, rather than hardware fastened at the trunk. Remember, a sturdy design will not only protect trunk, bark, and limbs. It will deter all sorts of invasions on the precious, sensitive root zone.

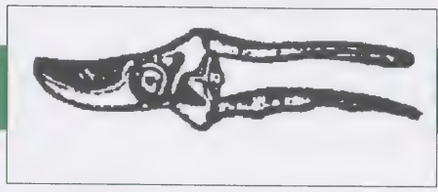
The main idea is to get the thing set up!

Tree pit guards send a message that this is someone's tree, not an abandoned, forgotten project. I promise by the next issue of the *Treebune* my tree's security device will be installed.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
Editor: **Charlotte Kidd**,
with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin and Sally McCabe.
Funding: **The William Penn Foundation.**

Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut St., Phila, PA 19106.
Deadline for submissions to the October issue is August 1.
Printed on recycled paper.

Clippings



Center City Garden Tour

Be a part of the **Friends of Trinity Memorial Church City Garden Tour** on **Sunday, July 10, between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm**. Visit formal backyard gardens, shade gardens, alleyway gardens, front stoop and tree lot gardens, windowbox gardens and more on a self-guided tour on Center City West. Tickets are $10. **For tickets call 567-7077 or** purchase just before the tour at the Church, 22nd & Spruce. All proceeds will go to maintain Trinity Memorial Church.

Need Wood Chips?

PECO Energy is providing free wood chips by the truckload on customer request. PECO will deliver about 10 cubic yards of chips from its tree trimming program within 30 days of request. To order, call PECO at the information number on your bill.

Street Tree Arboretum

The **Fairmount Park Commission** invites anyone interested in trees to visit the **Street Tree Arboretum** outside the Horticultural Center at Belmont Avenue and North Concourse Drive. Dedicated on Arbor Day 1992, the collection contains about 90 young, labeled trees. For more information, phone Pat Crossan at 685-0096.

Meade School Dedication

Students, teachers, and friends of **George G. Meade Elementary School** gathered to dedicate their new teaching garden and tree lab on a beautiful June morning. **Roberta Kimmelman**, principal of Meade, hosted the fantastic celebration. Several former Meade students played in the **Vaux Middle School** band. The mighty **Meade Mustangs** performed wonderfully rousing cheers designed to raise spirits for the occasion. Speeches were made by representatives of the sponsoring institutions who collaborated on this very special project, **Temple University, Beech Corporation**, and **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**. **Valerie Marshall**, Special Education Teacher, described the contents of a time capsule which will be buried within the teaching garden. The entire project was funded by **The William Penn Foundation**.

First Red Tomato

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the **Third Annual Vine-Ripened Tomato Contest**, sponsored by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association** (NGA). First and second ripened tomatoes will get a prize: a gardening video featuring the researched and tested expert gardening techniques of **Jeff Ball**.

The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. An NGA staffperson must see the tomato on the vine. Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomatoes start to ripen. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Passing of a Friend

Donna Thorpe, formerly of **West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne**, died recently in Chicago where she had moved to be closer to her sister. Donna had been an avid gardener and community activist for many years. She also served as a member of our Advisory Board. Donna lived the expression "We bloom where we are planted." Donna will remain dear to the hearts of her friends.

20th Anniversary Video Available

Assembled from interviews of gardeners and supporters, this twenty-minute video gives a touching overview of twenty years of Philadelphia Green.

The video is available for purchase.

The cost is $7.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Zip: **Phone:**

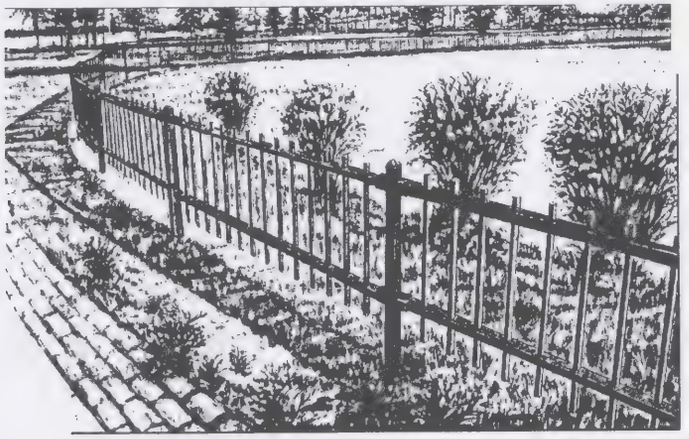
Amount Enclosed (@ $7.00) **$**

Return reservation to :
PG Video/ Linda Dickerson
PHS 325 Walnut Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Two years ago, the **Interstate Land Management Corporation** (ILMC), a quasi-public agency funded by the City of Philadelphia and the State, asked the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program to manage the landscapes under its jurisdiction. They include the parks and green spaces alongside and between the Ben Franklin and Walt Whitman Bridges.

Since undertaking the project, PHS has greatly enhanced the landscape of these 35 acres of roadside



green spaces. We hired a landscape contractor for the regular maintenance tasks — lawn mowing, pruning, mulching, weeding, watering and weekly litter pick-up. This year **All Seasons Landscaping** is doing the job to keep ILMC clean and green.

Recently, ILMC and PHS undertook the renovation of the park at Front and Chestnut Streets. The makeover was designed by the **Delta Group**, a landscape design firm that did the original park designs for PennDOT in 1976. Once neglected and all but forgotten, this park now boasts a fresh new look. The centerpiece is a lawn enclosed with a fence and surrounded by roses, grasses and small flowering trees. All the landscaped areas in the park were replanted with new trees, shrubs and perennials. The work was accomplished by the landscape contracting company **Pennink Arrimour, Inc**.

We've recently undertaken the renovation of another ILMC park, this one at Front Street between Dock and Spruce Streets. With the Delta Group on board again as our consultant, we've begun the renovation process. **Moon Landscaping, Inc**. has been hired to do the construction. With its raised planters and formal bosque of trees, the park will be transformed with the addition of colorful perennials, roses, shrubs and trees — creating a beautiful and enjoyable place for all.

Please take the time when you are in Olde City to stop in and enjoy our newly refurbished urban parks.

Joe Slane
Project Coordinator, Public Landscapes

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

July/August 1994

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

Vol. 16 • No. 7 • September/October 1994

Around the Neighborhood

Intrepid Composters

Neither rain nor sleet nor dark of night... not even two inches of rain in half an hour could keep gardeners and friends at 1033-7 S. 6th St. from building their compost bins. Aided by **Kalyan Bhagratty** and **Sally McCabe** from Philadelphia Green, gardeners from **projects** sponsored by **The City's Department of Licenses & Inspections** at **557 E. Walnut Lane** in Germantown, **1823-9 East Oakdale** in Kensington, **512-16 Manton**, **Project Hope** near 15th & Fairmount, and **1033-37 S. 6th Street** gathered to learn about composting. Using wood chips, tree trimmings, weeds, and household garbage, participants carefully made garden "lasagne" by layering the different materials, getting just the right combinations to make rich, fertile garden soil from stuff that would otherwise have gone into landfill.

Using recycled pallets, the workers had just finished building the first of two bins when the deluge started. Not to be bothered by a little rain, (or lightning!!) they all moved into the PG Gardenmobile and sat on buckets and lumber to talk about how compost happens and how it helps the garden grow.

As soon as the rain slowed to a sprinkle, the gardeners built the second bin and reviewed instructions on how to keep it going through all four seasons.

Congatulations to the new experts: **Johanna Berrigan, Jeffrey Hickson, Harry Bergbauer, Mildred Navarra, Alexia Chororos** and the gang from the **South 6th Street Community Garden**.

Susquehanna News

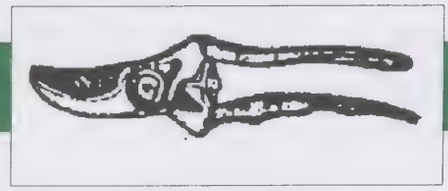
Marjorie Thornton
PG Advisory Board

Philadelphia Green's Jeff Myers was guest speaker at a recent **Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne Garden Club** meeting. On that beautiful sunny day the meeting was held in the garden at **Woodstock and Dauphin**, maintained primarily by an ardent golden ager, **John Chappelle**.

Jeff brought an abundance of plants and material to demonstrate and explore. His presentation involved the importance of working and knowing your soil, testing it and reading pH ranges. He guided everyone through the fundamentals essential to successful gardening, which include composting, starting seeds, and outdoor sowing.

As each month passes with our group, we become more aware that our monthly meeting has turned into the Greene Countrie Towne Learning Channel!

Safe and dry, gardeners discuss the joys of composting.



Clippings

4th Annual Red Tomato Race

Congratulations to the winners! **Marjorie Washington**, long-time gardener at **Aspen Farms**, 49th & Aspen, had the first officially recognized red tomato this year.

Second prize went to **Rosetta Little** from the **Garden of Eatin'**, 25th & Dickinson.

Honorable Mentions to **Blanche Epps, Garden of Gethsemane; Beverly Montgomery, Seedy Acres;** and **Pablo Burgos, Orianna Hill**. All winners had ripe tomatoes well before the 4th of July!

The "First Ripened Tomato on the Vine" contest is sponsored annually by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association/A Philadelphia Land Trust**. For more information about the Land Trust or about preserving gardens, call Claire Power at 625-8264.

Join the Club

If you want to receive special mailings on workshops, field trips and volunteer opportunities with Philadelphia Green, please call Gigi Sheppard at 625-8280 to get on the list.

Strawberry Trip

Philadelphia Green Staffers and **Greene Countrie Towne Leaders** headed for **Snipes Farm and Nursery** this summer for a fabulous strawberry picking extravaganza and hayride.

June 14 had to be the hottest day of the year, but that still didn't stop us from having a "berry" good time. **Lenora Jackson-Evans** from Strawberry Mansion GCT picked so many strawberries, she had to reserve parking for them all.

Patricia knew to hold off the potluck dinner until last because once we ate **Naomi Ray's** delicious pound cake we weren't moving.

Community Support

Special thanks to **Mr. William Rowe**, who's coordinator of the **1600 block N. 18th Street** garden across from the Meade School for his continuing and wonderful support of the school children. This is the second season that he has cheerfully given up half of his garden so the children from the school have a place to grow vegetables and flowers, where they learn a respect for community and gardening.

The heat of the summer hasn't arrested growth of the flowers in front of the **23rd Police District** building in the **Cecil B. Moore** neighborhood. Thanks to **Viola Hastings**, plants have been watered, weeded and given plenty of TLC through one of the hottest summers on record.

Tree Tenders

Tree Tenders fall training still has some openings. If you or your neighborhood group would like to join, or your Tree Tenders group has new members to be trained, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Dates are set for three Wednesdays:

September 21, 28, and October 5.

Deadline to register is **September 12.**

Community Gardening Conference

PG staff and Advisory Board members recently traveled to Chicago to the annual American Community Gardening Association conference. **Mindy Maslin** spoke on Tree Awareness Programs; **Sue Phillips** on Park Revitalization;**Tom Mishler** on Community Landscape Services; **Patricia Schrieber**, Community Greening; **Sally McCabe**, on Newsletter Design and on Using Computers. Also attending were staffers **Janet Carter, Eileen Gallagher, Deborah Hall, Melinda Johnson, Flossie Narducci,** and **Anne Vallery**, along with Advisory Board members **Hayward Ford** and **Delmer Gill,**

Clippings edited by Gigi Sheppard, Education Secretary

Getting Ready for the Harvest Show

Getting Your Entry to the Show

- **Stake container plants** for extra support
- **Cut holes** in overturned cartons to fit pots.
- **A rod attached to the clothes-hanging fixture** in the car will support hanging baskets. Secure the rod or pole by sticking it between the window and the top of the car door; roll the window up as far as it will go to prevent slipping. To keep plant from swinging, attach it to a brick or cinderblock below the seat.
- **A bucket with a weight in the bottom** and stuffed with newspaper will also support a hanging basket during transport.

Here's How to Enter the Show

Bring your entries to the
Horticulture Center
Belmont Ave. & Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park.

Registration is:
Thursday, Sept 15, **5:30 - 8:00 PM**
Friday, Sept 16th, **7:30 - 10:00 AM**

- **A box stuffed with newspaper** is also ideal for moving canned goods
- **When bringing vegetables or fruit** for entry, pack each set of entries (such as 3 tomatoes plus extras) in a separate bag with their completed entry tag. Too much time spent sorting entries at the Show could mean missed deadlines.
- **Transport flowers in water** if possible to prevent wilting. Avoid spills by filling jars only half way and standing them up in a box or bucket packed loosely with newspaper. Don't leave them sitting in the car in the sun while you unload other things.
- **Put an old rug or blanket** down in the car under entries. It helps prevent sliding and keeps the car clean.
- **Seat belts can be helpful** in supporting plants or cartons while transporting them.
- If you have large or heavy entries, or a large number of entries, a **dolly or wagon** of your own is a great help in moving your stuff to and from the car, especially for Sunday evening removal from the Show.

How to Win the Harvest Sweepstakes

Want to make all this year's ribbons go a little further? Want to make each of your entries in the Show count for more? Each year Harvest Show officials tally up all the ribbons and prizes awarded to winning entries from each garden. **Community Gardens Sweepstakes Certificates** are presented to community gardens with the greatest number of ribbons **(blue, red, yellow or white)** throughout the Harvest Show. More points are given for the more difficult classes (such as, Harvest Windows, Bounty Baskets, Floral Bounty, and Challenge Class,) so be sure to enter these catagories.

Gift Certificates for the the purchase of gardening supplies at Primex Garden Center in Glenside were presented to the winners last year.

These awards are listed each year on the blackboard on the night of the Harvest Party.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has a separate sweepstakes for the Harvest Show and presents a separate certificate for the community garden with the most **blue** ribbons won.

Garden Tips

Houseplant Hiatus

As cold weather approaches, it's time to consider bringing your houseplants in for the winter. Of course this may mean getting rid of a few pieces of furniture first to make room for the jungle. In any case, it's important to check for insects and other problems before moving them, since you'll have more room to work outdoors, and pests won't seem so overwhelming.

- Check leaves carefully, especially the undersides, for aphids and mealybugs, as well as caterpillars. Wash off with soap and water, then with alcohol on a cotton swab if needed. Caterpillars and bigger bugs can be picked off by hand, or, if you're squeamish, knocked off into a cup of water and disposed of.

- If you feel the need to pull out the big guns for more difficult pest problems, dip or spray plants carefully while still outside, and leave them for a few days to air out before moving in. Repeat treatment if necessary, still giving it time to air out.

- Start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system.

- Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, heating ducts and marauding cats. Don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants as well as gardeners have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter.

Saving Summer Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55°° to 60°°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40°° to 45°° to prevent them from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

Garden Cleanup

They're out there. Waiting. And they'll wait all winter if they have to. Then, just when you thought it was safe to go out in the garden in the spring, *they attack!!!*

They are the insects. If you don't want to add to your 1995 population of insect and disease problems, get out in the garden now and clean it up. NOW.

- Remove plants as they finish bearing. This should be an ongoing process all season long. If plants have a bad insect or disease problem, remove them completely from the garden and put out with the trash. Healthy plants can be tilled in or added to the compost pile.

- Include weeds in your search and destroy mission. Try to get the weeds from the surrounding area as well as in the garden.

Cultivating Kids

Fruit & Vegetable Roll-ups

These treats are very popular items in grocery stores and are very easy and inexpensive to make yourself, especially this time of year.

They are good nutritious additions to school lunches or for snacks.

You can use almost any well-ripened or overly-ripe fruit. (Cherries, apples and grapes work especially well.) Other people have used peaches, bananas and apricots. You can also combine bananas and nuts, peaches and bananas, or cherries and apples.

Core or pit the fruits and puree in blender or food processor. Cover an ovenproof tray (like a baking sheet with sides) with a layer of plastic wrap. Pour the puree onto the tray to a depth of about 1/8".

Put in a gas oven set at 120° and let cook slowly for about 6 hours. It should be firm enough to turn over. Remove the pastic wrap and dry for 4 more hours.

Put back on plastic wrap and roll up like a jelly roll. Cut in pieces about 5" long. Store in an airtight container.

Vegetable Roll-up Recipe
(from Friends Hospital)

2 cups fresh tomatoes, chopped
1/2 green pepper, chopped
2 T. chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped celery
2 medium sliced carrots

Combine and simmer over low heat until carrots and celery are tender - about 20-30 minutes. Prepare the same as fruit roll-ups.

Youth Garden Grants

The National Gardening Association will again be offering youth gardening grants to gardens working with kids. The grant is in the form of tools, seeds and books, and is worth several hundred dollars. **Deadline for submission is Nov. 15**, so contact them right away!

To request an application, send a legal size self-addressed envelope with 52 cents postage to

National Gardening Association
Dept NGGP
180 Flynn Ave
Burlington, VT 05401.

What's Coming Up

September 7	Wednesday	10:30 AM	**Harvest Show Workshop** 1511 N. Philip St. *See below*
September 15	Thursday	5:30-8	**Registration** for the Harvest Show Horticulture Center
September 16	Friday	7:30-10 AM 4-7	**Registration** for Harvest Show **Opening Celebration** *See coupon next page for 2 free tickets*
September 17	Saturday	10-5 12-4 6-8	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Join the fun with your children **HARVEST PARTY !!** *See coupon next page for 5 free tickets*
September 18	Sunday	10-5 12- 4	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple bobbing, games, scarecrow making and more!
October 29	Saturday	9:30-12:30	**Bulb Planting Workshop** *See below*

Harvest Show Lectures & Demos

Visit the Auditorium during the Show

Saturday, Sept 17

12:30 **Meet the PHS Cookbook Crew**
book signing

1:00 **Secrets of Container Gardening**
Bill & Mary Coppens, exhibitors

2:00 **Fall in the Garden is NOT Boring**
Cassandra Danz, Author, *Mrs. Greenthumbs*

3:00 **Butterfly Gardens**
Deb Lux, Silver Lake Nature Center

Sunday, Sept 18

12:00 **Meet the PHS Cookbook Crew**
book signing

12:30 **Selection & Conditioning of Garden Flowers for Use in Arrangements**
Bernice Makin, Flower Arranger

1:30 **Designing with Pressed Flowers**
Linda Villa

2:30 **Arranging the Harvest — Fruits, Vegetables & Flowers**
Eva Monheim, Eve's Floral Creations

3:30 **Drying Herbs & Herbal Vinegars**
Lorraine Kieffer, Triple Oaks Herb Farm

Harvest Show Workshop

Join Philadelphia Green and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program to get your garden ready for the Harvest Show. Learn everything about how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs and preserved products to win top prizes at the Show.

when: **Wednesday, Sept. 7, 10:30 AM**

where: start at South Kensington NAC Office
1511 N. Philip St
and travel to nearby **Emma's Court** garden for some hands-on experience.

Bulb Planting Workshop

Learn proper techniques for planting bulbs the way the experts do it -- how to create an effective display whether you have a petite plot or many acres to cover. Experience hands-on learning when the group travels by bus to practice at the **26th Street Gateway** public landscape site. Dress for the weather -- this is a rain or shine activity.

A limited number of seats are available.
Saturday, Oct 29, 9:30 AM
You MUST register for this event.
Call Jackie Reardon at 625-8280.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Celebrating
20
Years

Join us for a
Harvest Party
celebrating the 20th Anniversary of
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green Program
1974-1994
Saturday, Sept 17, 6-8:30 PM

&

For the first time...
You are invited to attend the
Harvest Show Opening
Friday, September 16, 4-7 PM

Children Celebrate the Harvest

Send Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to :
PHS/Flossie Narducci
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19106

Free Tickets to **Harvest Party** and **Harvest Show Opening**

Name_____

Address_____

ZIP_____ **Phone**_____

☐ Please send 5 tickets for the
20th Anniversary Harvest Party
Saturday, Sept 17, 6-8:30 PM

☐ Please send 2 tickets for the
Harvest Show Opening Celebration
Friday, Sept 16, 4-7 PM

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

We continue celebrating our 20th anniversary with memories of the Harvest Show from ***Sharon Turner*** *(Hope Springs Garden),* ***Frank Kieser*** *(Brickyard Garden), and* ***Cecilia Yep*** *(Chinatown Garden). We hope you will participate at this year's show, September 17 and 18.*

Sharon:

We had our first Harvest Party in 1975 at PHS headquarters. The judges dispensed ribbons and competitive juices flowed among community gardeners. With the expanding number of groups, we later moved on to tl First Bank on 3rd Street. The quality of the vegetable and the way things were displayed improved over tin The committee for the big Harvest Show, which involved suburban gardeners, was so impressed with th quality of produce grown by the community gardeners that they invited us to come out and display at their show.

That was quite an experience. It was great to see what was grown on a city lot with 4 to 6 inches of soil, compared to suburban gardens with several feet of soil. Some of our produce was actually a whole lot better.

Frank:

I remember very clearly the very first Show we entered, at Memorial Hall in the late 1970's. Massive tables held lots and lots of produce. I had gotten accustomed to the fact that our own neighborhood had a couple of little gardens going but had no idea the scope of the program. We were very excited when we were told about the move to the Horticultural Center. With the center's wonderful grounds and the greenhouses, our imaginations really went crazy.

I was put in charge of scarecrows. I never saw so many in my life! The Show took on an artistic bent, and the quality of the exhibits, the vegetables continued to grow. It was a process of everybody sharing with one another in a healthy competitive spirit.

Cecilia:

When we were asked by the Horticultural Society to exhibit at the Harvest Show [in 1976], we didn't know the first thing about doing an exhibit. Blaine said to get our prize vegetables, put them in baskets and put signs on them. We had a pretty good exhibit by the time everybody had their input.

The next year we were a little late getting started. Ernesta Ballard [then PHS President] was very nervous. She said, "You only have an half an hour. How are you going to put this exhibit together?" I said, "We're going to try very hard." She came back in half an hour and said "Oh my goodness, I don't believe it." When she first saw us we were coming in with wheel barrows and cinder blocks. Meanwhile we had built an outdoor fireplace and had a wok with vegetables piled high. We had thrown cloths over the tables, and filled baskets with all the vegetables. It was really rewarding to see how pleased she was. In fact we won a prize for our exhibit.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Celebrating 20 Years

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

September/October 1994

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

Vol. 16 • No. 3 • November 1994

8

Around the Neighborhood

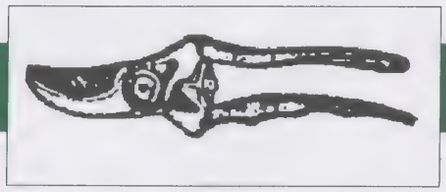
Tomasita Romero and **Iris Brown** are proud of the **Norris Square Green Gardeners**. This team of 12 youth, ages 16 and 17, sponsored by **PhilaJob**, worked with the **Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne** for six weeks this past summer. Close to the end of their work, they gathered in the garden at the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** (NSNP) to talk of their success.

Bernice, Carlos, Daisy, Irma, Joe, Jose, Lawrence, Mark, Omar, Shay, Tamitra and William all joined in to tell the story. They compared their recent experience with the previous summer. "Last year, all we did in those other places was mop up and pick up trash." They found Norris Square to be a friendlier place, where everybody had a job and tried to get along. Some admitted it was hard getting started. Tomasita and Iris were strict with them, setting rules including a dress code, and telling them what was expected. They learned the importance of showing respect, creating trust and cultivating honesty from two very fine role models.

The team's daily schedule began with their going **five times** around Norris Square Park - walking, running, whatever didn't matter as long as they did it and were finished by 10:00 a.m. They spent the rest of their time working on a variety of garden - related projects. With NSNP's **Rafael Feliciano** as instructor, they created small wire compost bins for 16 garden plots in **Las Parcelas Garden.** They not only built the bins but understood how the weeds they pulled went into the compost and came out as new garden soil. The Green Gardeners also built birdhouses that they painted and erected in neighborhood gardens.

A memorable word they wore on their PhilaJob T-shirts was **empowerment**. Tomasita and Iris made sure they had many opportunities to grow into that word. "We felt it was time for them to know that everything we do has consequences. They came here to do a job. We told them we had to form a group so we could work together and get the job done. Sometimes we were frustrated but when we see the change in attitudes, it was worth it." Sitting in the garden, telling their story, the Green Gardeners reflected the sum of their experiences. Team members said things like: "You deserve the pay because you really earned it . . . You look back at what weeds you pulled, the painting, the planting and it makes you feel good . . . If you make it fun, it's fun; if you make it

(continued next page)



Clippings

Harvest Hunt Questions and Answers from the 1994 Harvest Show

1. What is the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's community gardening program called? ***PHILADELPHIA GREEN***
2. The flower arrangement in the greenhouse with the fountain that utilizes dried material ONLY is:
   a. Jacks
   b. Penny Candy
   c. Grandmother's Attic
3. What won the bronze medal in the Preserved Products classes? ***Italian Peppers***
4. How many sunflowers were entered in the youth tent ***12*** ; Who created your favorite pumpkin pal? ***Monique Perry***
5. List 3 medicinal herbs found in Class #553. ***Rue, Horehound, Wormwood, Chamomile, Comfrey, Sage***
6. Who is the community gardens sweerstakes' winner in the large garden category? ***Seedy Acres***
7. What is the theme of the Penn State Urban Gardening Program's exibit? ***Harvesting the Future***
8. Name the 1st prize winner in the Harvest Window class. ***Bancroft***
9. What is the longest ***Crookneck Squash*** and the largest ***Pumpkin*** entry in the vegetable classes?
10. Find the 2 people who have a different color game sheet and ask them if they have entered the Harvest Show. Have them sign your sheet. 1. ***Gloria Marigold*** 2.***Bettie Bloomer***

New Partnerships

On September 10, students from Bryn Mawr College joined the Friends of the Azalea Garden to help with weeding, watering and transplanting. The same day University of Pennsylvania students teamed up with volunteers from Eastern State Penitentiary's Ribbon of Gold crew assisting with the monthly workday tasks. Following the work sessions students were able to tour this historic site.

Special thanks to the young men & women who participated.

Youth Garden Grants

The National Gardening Association will again be offering youth gardening grants to gardens working with kids. The grant is in the form of tools, seeds and books, and is worth several hundred dollars. **Deadline for submission is Nov. 15**, so contact them right away!

To request an application, send a legal size self-addressed envelope with 52 cents postage to

National Gardening Association
Dept NGGP
180 Flynn Ave
Burlington, VT 05401.

Norris Square (continued from front page)

boring, it is boring." They seemed genuinely touched by what they had accomplished. "When we first came here, one garden had lots of weeds. Ms. Brown had us pull weeds and plant flowers. Later you could see the change. You could see someone cared for the garden." They all laughed when they recalled how Iris had told them after a while they'd have a habit of pulling weeds. "And you know, it's true! It's like you're addicted to weeding... Now when I'm home, I pull weeds too."

The Norris Square Green Gardeners faced the challenging conditions of heat, humidity, and employer expectations, and succeeded in reaching their goals. Soon after the work ended, the US. Department of Agriculture asked NSNP to recommend a reliable motivated youth for a part-time position. Iris reports that their choice of Irma was a good one; she's doing very well in her new job.

Tomasita and Iris are searching for ways to keep the Green Gardeners involved during the school year. The youth may make more of their colorful birdhouses, perhaps to sell to other community gardens. They may be invited to join Grupo Motivos in which gardeners meet to study cooking, gardening and Puerto Rican culture as well as maintain the gardens of their Greene Countrie Towne. Whatever they do, we look forward to hearing more good news about the Norris Square Green Gardeners.

For more information about the PhilaJob Program, call 567-2400.

1994 CITY GARDENS CONTEST WINNERS

Community Children's Gardens

3rd **16th & South Streets**
Tanya Cox and kids
"Raices"
Iris Brown and kids
2nd **Seedy Acre Kids**
Sally McCabe and kids
Project Rainbow
Sister Diana and kids
1st **Caring Center**
Barbara Powell and kids

Tree Labs

3rd **Vare Middle School**
Larry Stier & kids
Meade Elementary School
Ellen Lube & kids
2nd **Washington Elementary School**
Dennis Donahue & kids
1st **Harding Middle School**
Carol Vanagaitis & kids
Brown School
Michael Weiss & kids

Gardeners with Special Needs

2nd **Awbury Program**
Denise Harvey and gardeners
1st **Carousel House**
William Coppens and gardeners

Community Combination Gardens - Small

3rd **5013 Pine Street**
Rena Ennis and neighbors
4014-22 Ludlow Street
John Norbeck and neighbors
2nd **46th & Wyalusing & Merion Aves.**
Elnora Jones, Hazel Parker and neighbors
2301 N. Cleveland Street
Dorothy Williams & George Trotter and neighbors
1st **4941-53 W. Stiles Street**
Genita Millhouse and neighbors

PNC Community Garden Award

4941-53 W. Stiles Street
Genita Milhouse & neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **4715 Chester Avenue**
Carolyn Haynes and neighbors
2nd **1505-09 N. 7th Street**
Carmen Delgado and neighbors
1st tie **"Las Parcelas"**
Iris Brown and neighbors
"Emma's Court"
Nick Giordano and neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Large

3rd **Powelton & Wiota Street**
John Lindsay and neighbors
2nd **Garden of Eatin'**
Alta Felton and neighbors
4700 Warrington Avenue
Jo Ann Fishburn and neighbors
1st **Aspen Farms**
Hayward Ford and neighbors

Community Flower Gardens - Small

3rd **2700 W. French Street**
Lenora Jackson-Evans and neighbors
1302 Auburn Street
Willie Mae Glisson and neighbors
2151 N. 9th Street
Lennett Davis and neighbors
2nd **314 Emily Street**
Alice Murray and neighbors
29th & Oxford Streets
Silvester Griffin and neighbors
1141 E. Columbia Avenue
Louis Chiulli and neighbors
20th & Pemberton Streets
Jane Landis and neighbors
1st **Stillman & Parrish**
Jane Gourley & neighbors

Community Flower Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **1347 S. 32nd Street**
Alice Riley and neighbors
22nd & Reed Streets
Golde Fitzpatrick and neighbors
2nd **1721 W. Montgomery Street**
Wyn Postell and neighbors
1st **1700 N. Newkirk Street**
Daisy Singletary and neighbors

Community Flower Gardens - Large

3rd **Guild House West**
Jim Wilcox and neighbors
2nd **100 Market Street**
David Milne and neighbors
1st **2146-48 N. 27th Street**
Clannie Berrian and neighbors

Department of L&I - Clean and Green Program

3rd **557 E. Walnut Lane**
Jeffrey Hickson and neighbors
411-13 E. Somerset Street
Mary Britton and neighbors

2nd **2221-23 Latona Street**
John Dixon and neighbors
2050-56 Darien Street
Patty Smith and neighbors
2919 N. Park Street
Bernice Rustin and neighbors

1st **5437-39 Addison Street**
Ruby Grant and neighbors
3304 N. 15th Street
Charlotte Grant and neighbors

1st Year Community Gardens

3rd **509 W. Cumberland Street**
Rafael Carabello and neighbors

2nd **1836-38 N. 22nd Street**
Charles Reed and neighbors

1st **3129 N. Chadwick Street**
Livingston Hudson and neighbors

Eugene E. Smith Memorial

3129 N. Chadwick Street
Livingston Hudson and neighbors

Garden Blocks - 1st Year

2nd **300 E. Wildey Street**
Patricia Johnson and neighbors

1st **2800 N. Lawrence Street**
Norma Garcia and neighbors

Garden Blocks

3rd **1400 Block of S. Paxon Street**
Samuel and Carolyn Hall & neighbors
1900 Block of N. Patton Street
Dolly Story and neighbors

2nd **3700 Block of N. 15th Street**
Minnie Radcliffe and neighbors
5000 Block of Ludlow Street
Daisy Ree Gervin and neighbors

1st **400 Block of S. 51st Street**
Rena Ennis and neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

3rd **1500 Block of Deveraux Street**
Marion Magnotta and neighbors
1700 Block of W. Edgley Street
Dollie Pinckney and neighbors

2nd **6100 Block of Washington Avenue**
Laura Sims and neighbors
6200 Block of Ellsworth Street
John Steptoe and neighbors

1st **100 Block of Church Street**
Elaine Jermyn and neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Small

3rd **Seedy Acres**
Sally McCabe and neighbors
3301 N. 21st Street
William and Dorothy Lofton
1900 N. Van Pelt Street
Anita Edwards and neighbors

2nd **1533-35 W. Norris Street**
Joan Briley and neighbors
1202-13 S. 26th Street
Cynthia Anderson and neighbors

1st **12 S. 43rd Street**
Naomi Adams and neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd **Duval and Ardleigh Streets**
Delmer and Beverly Gill & neighbors
4900 Brown Street
Lillie Cunningham and neighbors
1000 W. Orleans Street
Eloise Valentine and neighbors

2nd **15th & Butler Streets**
Minnie Radcliffe and neighbors
Ogden and 43rd Streets
The Southerners
413-19 W. Berks Street
Valentine Rios and neighbors

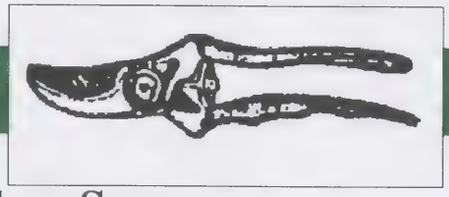
1st **28th & Cambria Streets**
Annie Dee Hyman and neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens - Large

3rd **20th & Tioga Streets**
Grover Willis and neighbors

2nd **Johnson Homes**
Gretta Fleming and neighbors

1st tie **3rd & Christian Streets**
Yvonne Howard and neighbors
2027 W. Estaugh Street
Charles Dargan and neighbors



Terrarium Workshop

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program will hold a workshop teaching **How to Build a Terrarium** on November 16th.

where: Norris Square Senior Citizen Center
2121 N. Howard Street
when: November 16
10:30 AM

For more information, call the **Gardenphone**, at 560-4167.

Congratulations

Mamie Nichols was recently the recipient of the Brandywine Workshop's **Van Der Zee Lifetime Achievement Award** for outstanding community service. Her involvements include the **Point Breeze Federation**, **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**, **Friends of the Free Library**, **Point Breeze Performing Arts Center**, the **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network**, **Brandywine Workshop**, and the **City Planning Commission**. Through Mamie's volunteer efforts benefiting parks, housing, and the arts, generations of Philadelphians will experience a more beautiful city and a much richer life.

Blue Ribbon Soup

At a recent **Dried Flower Arrangements** workshop, sponsored by Philadelphia Green and **Johnson Homes**, the 27 community participants got more than they ever could have expected. Not only did they go home with beautiful arrangements, and knowledge for drying their own garden flowers; they also went home full of blue-ribbon soup.

Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden had won many ribbons at this year's Harvest Show, and when these entries came back to the community center after the Show, **Nellie Reynolds**, Johnson Homes Tenant Council Coordinator, made 5 gallons of soup.

Join the Club

If you want to receive special mailings on workshops, field trips and volunteer opportunities with PHS (especially with Philadelphia Green), please call Gigi Sheppard at 625-8280 to get on the list.

If you would like to have a copy of the PG Gardeners' Guide, send $5 to Gigi c/o
Gardeners' Guide, PHS,
325 Walnut Street, Phila PA 19106-2777.

Clippings edited by Gigi Sheppard, Education Secretary

Sweepstakes Winners--Most Points Earned from Harvest Show Entries

Small Gardens

1st	Mitchell Academy	Jacqueline Alexander
2nd	Vare Middle School	Larry Stier
3rd	Bancroft Garden	Katie Reuter
HM	Chrysolyte Garden	Edna Jones

Mid-size Gardens

1st	Haines St. Garden	Gloria Summers
2nd	Fruit-Berry Rose Gdn	Bob & Maye Clement
3rd	Summer/Winter Garden	Beverly Agard

Novice Garden

1st	2700 French	Lenora Jackson-Evans

Large Gardens

1st	Seedy Acres	Sally McCabe
2nd	Garden of Gethsemane	Blanche Epps
3rd	Ren-Par Park	Jessie Carter
HM	Church Lane	Edith Wertz

Extra Large Gardens

1st	Southwark/Queen Village	Yvonne Howard
2nd	Aspen Farms	Hayward Ford
3rd	Schuylkill Park	Frank Lyons
HM	Intergenerational Garden	Debbie Aikens

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

I like to think that I received two sets of tools from PHS Tree Tenders training- the tools of knowledge about tree physiology, planting, growth and pruning, and the pruning tools we received after completion of the class.

As I began my tree education, my street received new sewer pipes, new water pipes, new gas pipes, a new street, curbs and sidewalks. By the second session of "Tree Tenders", our trees' deep root systems were being torn apart and exposed to the hot, dry summer air. The trees were gouged and the backhoe had torn away huge branches and left smaller branches hanging.

During the reconstruction, I tried my best to make conditions a little more tolerable for our trees, like climbing into the trenches to pick up glass bottles and soda cans carelessly thrown by the construction crew. By the third and last session of "Tree Tenders," the street was 75% completed. In late June, before the reconstruction was complete, I pruned all the trees on our block, removing branches damaged and broken by the backhoe. I couldn't do much for the bark of trees that was gouged or split; all we could do was wait and see how the trees reacted. One neighbor called in an arborist for a professional consultation and his recommendations were the same — wait and see.

The reconstruction was completed in July. I even got the contractor to throw in a few pre-scored tree pits for future tree plantings. I placed our block on Philadelphia Green's waiting list for new street trees and entered our block in the City Gardens Contest, where we made it to the finals. I'm happy to report that the cool temperatures and the wettest July on record helped to nurse our trees back to health. We had a flea market on a hot dry Saturday and our street trees helped keep us cool in the shade. But we did sustain one casualty. One small, runty-looking tree on the corner just fell over at its base during a very windy thunderstorm. It really never had a chance and combined with the major trauma it sustained during the construction, it just gave up. As I remembered Mindy Maslin's words that an average street tree lasts just seven years, I did a quick mental computation, and it was seven years exactly.

I'm elated to find that my daughter and I are now the proud parents of a tiny honey locust seedling to replace our fallen comrade. I enlisted Mindy's expertise and she came to my four year-old daughter's day-care center to do a fun-filled presentation about trees and recycling. The kids loved it and knew a lot more about trees than Mindy and I thought urban-dwelling three, four and five-year-olds would know. At the end of the presentation, all the preschoolers planted honey locust seeds in tiny Dixie cups. As of this writing, Arianna's honey locust seedling is about an inch tall. I look forward to the day in a few years when I can see the look on my daughter's face as we plant the tree she helped to nurture. And so life goes on. Trees — what a beautiful way to help humans learn about life.

Guest writer Anna Maria Vona is a recent Tree Tenders graduate.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Celebrating 20 Years

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

November 1994

Philadelphia Green News
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 16 • No. 10 • December 1994

Around the Neighborhood

Grant vs. Grant

by Kalyan Bhagratty

On a perfect June day in West Philly, as she diligently plucked spent petunia flowers, **Ruby Grant** proclaimed: "Kalyan, I've been reading the judging criteria, and I think we're gonna win!"

One week later, in North Philly, **Charlotte Grant** paused from her weeding chores, mopped her brow, contemplated her surroundings and wondered: "What do you think, Kalyan? Think we have a chance?" My very candid response was quite spontaneous: "I don't know, Charlotte — Ruby Grant says they are going to win." Charlotte spun around, placed her hands on her hips and declared "Oh yeah? Well I'll show Ruby Grant a thing or two!"

And so the battle began!

Charlotte Grant and neighbors garden at **3304 North 15th Street** where their tireless efforts have transformed an unsightly vacant lot into a charming visual delight. Visitors are greeted by a profusion of annuals, perennials and shrubs displayed against a green sea of perennial ryegrass. The garden also boasts a very productive vegetable plot and a cozy sitting area.

Ruby Grant and neighbors tend their beautiful garden at **5437 Addison Street.** Circular stepping stones guide you around a curved gravel path to an inviting cluster of garden furniture. From the gently swinging love seat to the very attractive storage shed tucked into one corner, this garden is characterized by neatness and elegance. The soft curves of the colorful flower beds, the soothing green of the carefully tended lawn, and the promise of future shade from the young trees all combine to form a very beautiful green space.

Both gardens were started in the 1994 season and were judged in the same category in the City Gardens Contest — New Gardens sponsored through the Department of Licenses & Inspections. On the big night, both Grants showed up with their respective neighbors. They chit-chatted through the cocktail hour, then moved into the auditorium to await the results. Both Grants had visited each other's gardens, so each knew what her competition was.

"Well, " Charlotte said, "they announced up to second place and I thought — I might as well get up and go home — because I knew that Ruby Grant's garden was better than the one receiving second prize, and I figured Ruby had won. When the big moment came the announcer said, "Hmm, looks like two cousins tied for first place — Ruby Grant and Charlotte Grant!' "

Ruby Grant said, "Kalyan, it was wonderful! We hugged and congratulated each other! It felt so good!"

Charlotte Grant said: "We hugged each other right there in front of the whole audience! I was so happy!"

What an absolutely perfect ending to the healthiest fun-filled gardening rivalry I have had the honor to witness! Congratulations, Ruby Grant and Charlotte Grant — not previous related, but now both sisters in the Philadelphia Green family!

Clippings

Las Parcelas Garden Party

Q: What had lots of music, dancing and plenty of food? A: The Norris Square GCT's Las Parcelas Garden Party in October. Grupo Motivos members **Darling, Esther, Familia Casas, Iris, Lucia C., Lucia O., Naida, Nitza, Paula, Rafael, Ramon, Tomasita, Willie**, and tons of children celebrated to generate warmth for the winter.

"What a wonderful group Motivos is!" stated Philadelphia Green staffer **Ramon Burgos**. "It was great to be able to speak your own language and eat your own food again. Being with the folks at Norris Square made me feel like I was back home in Puerto Rico. That is how they make you feel, like you're a part of this extremely large family. To all those people who made me feel so welcomed I'd like to say *gracias a todos en el grupo por hacerme parte del mismo."*

Shining Example

On October 20, **PhilaPride** and **Philadelphia More Beautiful Committe**e sponsored an awards ceremony in which Advisory Board member **Kate Loal** was one of the recipients. Kate won the Shining Example Award for her outstanding work with the children in her school and community.

Kate wants to thank Rena Ennis (another Advisory Board member), all the teachers at Huey School and Philadelphia Green for their continued support and contributions.

When asked what one does to get the Shining Example Award, Kate joked "Be wonderful!" And wonderful she is. Congratulations from all the staff at Philadelphia Green. We wish you the best and say "Keep shining!"

December Office Closings

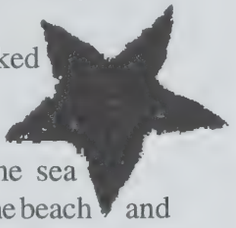
All PHS offices, including Philadelphia Green and the Library, will be closed during the week of December 26th through December 30th for the winter holidays.

Parks Reception

Park volunteers from Wharton Square, Marian Anderson Recreation Center, Norris Square and Vernon Park came together at PHS on October 6 for an evening of presentations and brainstorming about the four park sites with Department of Recreation Staff. Participants shared many interesting and creative ideas regarding priorities for park development. Congratulations to all the park groups for their informative presentations.

Words of Wisdom

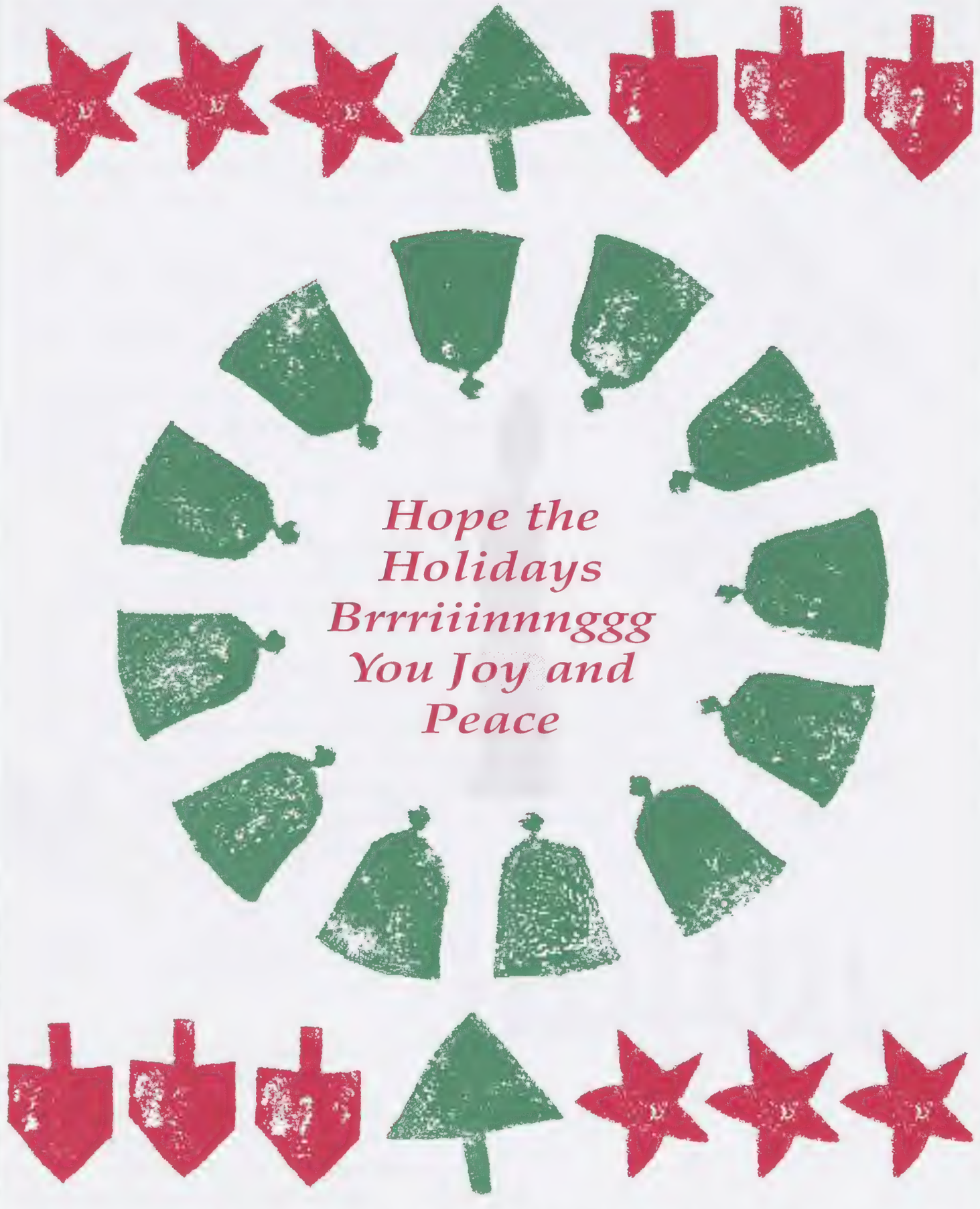
If you ever had the feeling that things never change no matter what you try, I have a story for you. It's about a boy who lived near the sea. Every morning he would find the beach covered by starfish, brought in by the waves. The boy looked at the dying starfish and began picking up one starfish and throwing it back into the sea. He picked up another starfish and threw it back in the sea. The waves kept bringing new starfish to the shore, but Tim kept throwing them back into the water. He never got tired of saving the starfish by throwing them back, day after day, from dawn to dusk.



One day, when the boy picked up a starfish to throw it back, an old man came up to him. The man said, "Every day the sea brings thousands of starfish to the beach and you try to save them by throwing them back one by one. Can't you see that what you are doing doesn't make a difference! You can never change it!"

The boy looked at the starfish in his hand and responded, "But for this one it makes a difference." With a smile he threw the starfish back into the water.

*Contributed by the **Grow With Your Neighbor** program in Dayton, Ohio.*

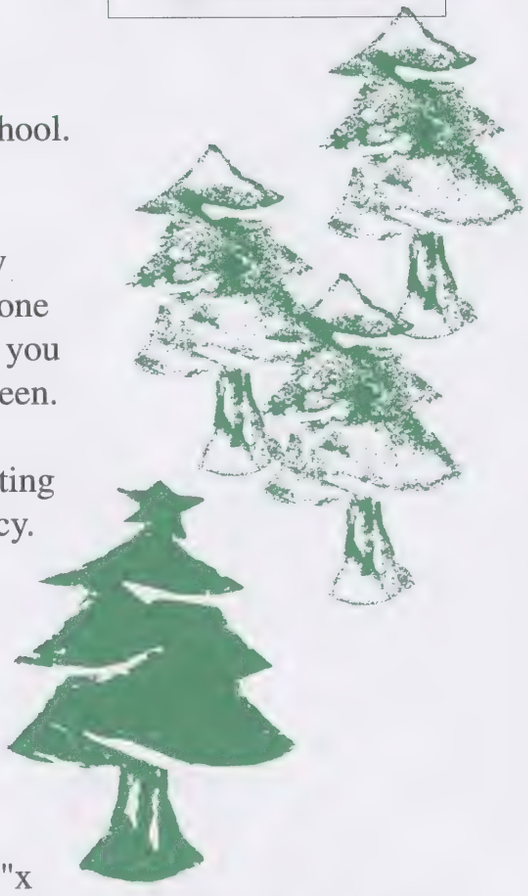


from all of us at Philadelphia Green!

Vegetable Print Holiday Cards

Kids love to exchange holiday cards with their friends in school. Give them a chance to create their own designer models.

Spread newspaper on the work surface. This way when they finish, they can roll up the evidence and throw it away. Make one yourself as an example, and give it to that special someone. If you haven't got a special someone, send it here to Philadelphia Green.



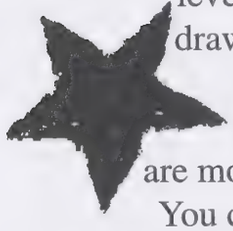
You really don't need to be an artist to make your own greeting cards. You can make the cards funny or religious, plain or fancy.

Here's what you need:

- potatoes, carrots, rutabaga, or other hard vegetable
- sharp knife
  (Use with **ADULT SUPERVISION ONLY**)
- heavy poster paper or card stock
- small cookie cutters are optional

Take a piece of the paper and fold it in half. A regular 8 1/2"x 11" sheet becomes 8 1/2"x 5 1/2". OR, use pre-folded card stock.

Then cut the vegetable in half; be careful to make a straight and level cut. Now decide what design you want to make, and draw it on the cut surface. Keep it simple, since you'Il need to carve away everything except the design, and that can be tricky. Angular shapes are easy; curves are more difficult.



You could also press a cookie cutter into the potato for the outline, then cut away everything outside the lines.

Press the design into some poster paint. Make sure to cover the whole design with paint, without, of course, covering your fingers. Now press the potato onto a folded piece of paper. The final product can be as simple or as complicated as you want it to be.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

I love to ask people about their gardens, what they do there and why they enjoy gardening. At the end of October, I talked with gardeners gathered for the City Gardens Contest.

Carol Vanagaitis, a very energetic community activist, is excited about the three high school students who are part of the **Whitehall Recreation Center Clean and Green. Diane** and **Donna Evans** (Frankford High School,) and **Grant Blon** (George Washington Carver High School for Engineering and Science) say they're involved as volunteers, caring for the center as well as the Harding Middle School Tree Lab, because it's fun. They also enjoy making the neighborhood look nicer. The three won a number of ribbons in the youth section of the Harvest Show with things they grew in the tree lab. All three feel more skilled after being involved for several years. They know plant names, basic landscaping and how to treat bare root trees (keep those roots moist and out of the sun) before planting.

Robin Anderson and **Quanishia Williamson** are students at South Philadelphia **Vare Middle School** who work in the school's Tree Lab with **Larry Stier**, teacher of Special Education. The two girls told me about watering the trees, and how they figure the amount of water needed based on the size of the trees. Robin's favorite is a crabapple while Quanishia's is a plum. Since the tree lab includes space for vegetables, they were able to enter eggplants, tomatoes, broccoli and squash at the Harvest Show. These entries helped them win the Second Place Sweepstakes, Small Gardens category.

The folks from West Philadelphia's **Warrington Community Garden** were chatting about their wins at the Harvest Show when we started to talk. Then **Judy Gernon, JoAnne Jackson, Stephen Pyne, Inge Eichstetter Hanes**, **JoAnn** and **Harry Fishburn** and **Denis Doyon** admitted they joined the community garden for different reasons: "to get my hands dirty... I only have shade in my backyard... it's a great meeting place." They all agreed that the garden cultivated a great sense of community that extended far beyond the garden gate.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Celebrating 20 Years

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
December 1994

Philadelphia Green News
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*
Vol. 17 • No. 1 • January/February 1995

PUBLIC LANDSCAPES — The 26th Street Gateway Project

by Joe Slane & John Gannon

Philadelphia Green has for several years been improving the highly visible public spaces of the city through its Public Landscapes department. The **26th Street Gateway** is one such project, connecting the airport to Center City. After 5 years of planning, coalition-building and fund-raising from the State, the City and the corporate sector, this multi-phase project has transformed a deteriorated, toxic "no-man's land" into a scenic urban environment.

Sun Edge II, Penrose Meadows II, and the Conrail Embankments

Three more areas of the project have recently been completed. Thanks to **Sun Company**, we finished Phase II of the refinery's fence edge planting along 26th Street from Hartranft Street north to the Schuylkill Expressway in August. And, following substantial demolition of former commercial structures, billboards, and an abandoned utilities structure, the entire intersection at 26th Street and Penrose Avenue now has grasses, flowering perennials, shrubs and trees. Construction for this phase, **Penrose Meadows II**, closed in June 1994. Lastly, the **Conrail-sponsored Railroad Embankments** project, adjacent to Penrose Meadows II, was planted with native species of trees, shrubs and perennials and seeded with wildflowers.

ISTEA Funding

Utilizing funds we received through the Federal **Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act** (ISTEA), the **Streets Department** and our design consultants, **Andropogon Associates**, have developed landscape plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of the Gateway's northern end on the east side of 26th Street up to the Schuylkill Expressway interchange. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring or summer 1995.

Philadelphia Outdoor and the Chevron Area

This Fall we met a new corporate neighbor, **Les Kaplan**, president of **Philadelphia Outdoor Co.**, an outdoor advertising company owning several billboards in the project area. He has agreed to provide the funds needed to clean up their most visible billboard site, long a victim of short dumping. This fall our contractor, **Moon Landscaping**, removed trash and debris and prepared the site for spring planting. We hope to work with Philadelphia Outdoor to develop a long-term maintenance schedule for this site. Also this fall, we began vegetation removals and some tree plantings at the former entrance area to Chevron (now owned by **Sun Company**), located at the foot of the George B. Platt Bridge (a.k.a. Penrose Ave. Bridge). We are in the process of reviewing preliminary design drawings with our consultant and are looking towards spring 1995 for additional vegetation removal, meadow seeding and planting. Look for the 26th Street Gateway to once again lift the spirits of commuters and travelers alike come springtime.

Clippings

Special Recognition

The Society's Council and Philadelphia Green Advisory Board gathered at the 167th Annual Meeting in November for awards presentations. Among those honored with a Certificate of Merit was **Florie Dotson** for her "energetic determination, civic commitment and outstanding leadership" on behalf of the Strawberry Mansion community. Florie Dotson is a founding member of the Strawberry Mansion Citizen Participation and Neighborhood Council. She is a long-time gardener and spearheaded the committee that planned the **Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne** with the help of Philadelphia Green.

Licenses and Inspections Program

During the last week of October, Philadelphia Green began its sixth year with the City of Philadelphia's Department of Licenses and Inspections **Clean and Green Program**.

Over the Fall, the Department held extensive meetings with community leaders and interested neighbors to determine an open space plan for two large sites in Strawberry Mansion, both near 30th and Page Streets. The plan called for gardens, tot lots, a basketball court and off-street parking for 18 vehicles.

Our crew, under the direction of Philadelphia Green staff member **Jonathan Frank**, implemented the design including 20 trees, raised vegetable beds and edged walkways. They cleaned and leveled both sites, spread woodchips and organic material and seeded a lawn. The Department hopes to establish the basketball court next Spring.

We look forward to working with the community this Winter, offering workshops on garden maintenance.

Clippings edited by Gigi Sheppard, Education Secretary

Garden "Buddies"

Neighbors in the **1700 block of North Gratz Street** in **Cecil B. Moore** have created their own green oasis. Those to be commended include **Irene Fletcher, 1732-34 N. Gratz St.; Linda, Glenn** and **Gregg Poce** from the lot at **1733 N. Gratz St.**; and **Catherine, David** and **Kevin Murray, 1723 N. Gratz St.** These gardens and gardeners have formed a "buddy system," helping each other to move soil, plant, weed, and mulch.

Neighbors are pleased with the impact greening has made on their blocks. Congratulations on a terrific job!

Ribbon of Gold

The **Ribbon of Gold Volunteers** wrapped up their workday season on Saturday, November 12 with their annual fall cleanup at **Eastern State Penitentiary**. As a token of his appreciation for the volunteers' dedication and hard work, **Jack McDavid, owner** of **Jack's Firehouse** restaurant across the street, treated 21 volunteers to a special luncheon after the cleanup. Among those attending were **Dorene Martin, Marc Zaharachuk, Patsy McLaughlin** and PG staff member **Kathryn Newland's** newborn, **Grace Newland Stankus.**

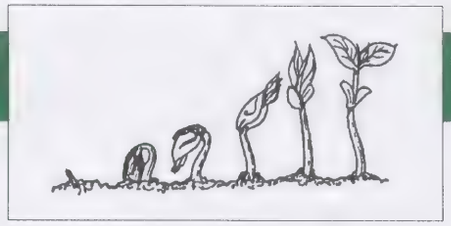
Join the Club

If you want to receive special mailings on workshops and field trips with Philadelphia Green, please call Gigi Sheppard at 625-8280 to get on the "hot"list.

If you would like to have a copy of the PG Gardeners' Guide, send $5 for postage & handling to Gigi c/o

Gardeners' Guide,
PHS,
325 Walnut Street,
Phila PA 19106-2777.

What's Coming Up?



The best thing about January is that it's garden catalog time, when we have time to relax and mentally plan and replan our gardens.

How about having a garden party? Invite other gardeners over and ask them to bring their catalogs, their favorite recipe using their garden harvest, a sample to taste, and their best gardening hints. You can ask questions about varieties you want to try and find out who will share a packet of seeds with you. Better yet, if your group orders together from a catalogue, you'll find that the larger packets of seeds are much cheaper.

Why not try starting seeds as a group? This way, each different person can grow a different kind of transplant, with everyone exchanging seedlings for planting out in the garden.

Seed Starting Tips

CONTAINERS If it will hold soil, it can be used to start transplants from seeds. Egg cartons, margarine tubs, flower pots, milk cartons and recycled market packs are all easy to find and work well. Just make sure that they have drainage holes that will allow excess water to run out the bottom. PLEASE NOTE: all these containers should be as clean as possible to avoid disease.

SOIL Think light. A lighter soil is easier to handle, has good drainage, and encourages root growth. The preferred mix is made up of shredded peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. This can be made at home or purchased already mixed.

SEEDS The beauty of starting your own transplants from seed is that there are more varieties available from seed than there are from transplants at the supermarket or garden center. Be sure to read the label and not start too soon.

LIGHT Unless you have wonderful wide windowsills that don't get too cold but do get eight hours of light a day, find some fluorescent light fixtures. Although special plant lights are supposed to be best, regular fluorescent bulbs are adequate for starting seeds. Adjust the lights every few days so they are no more than an inch or two above the surface of the tops of the plants.

PLANT SOME EXTRAS Let your friends know that you are starting your own transplants. This way you'll be able to swap your extras for other varieties they might be starting.

Winter Workshops

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program will once again be sponsoring their Winter Workshop Series. Subjects will include **Healthy Soils, Delicious Fruits for Small Gardens, Safe Insect Control, Safe Container Gardening,** and **Safe Care for Your Back in the Garden.**

All workshops are held at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center, Saturdays from January 21st through February 18th, and are FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

Registration is at 9 am; workshops are from 9:30 -11:30.

For more information, call the Penn State **Gardenphone** at 560-4167.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The neighbors on the **3100 block of Chadwick Street**, in Allegheny West, started their garden for a number of reasons. They shared, along with many community gardeners, pride in their neighborhood and the desire to change an eyesore into a place of beauty. They also wanted a place dedicated for the use of senior citizens.

W.C. Banks, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis, Pearl Elliott, Mike Green, Diane Hudson, Livingston Hudson, Alisha Minnis, Kevin Minnis, Lea Minnis, Fred Sherman, Sandra Sherrod (Block Captain) and **Diane Swann** are members of the team that garden together. They worked with PG staff **Winfred Young** to plan the spot last Spring. By late Summer, they were finalists in the City Gardens Contest. The gardeners won two honors: 1st Place, New Community Garden and the Eugene Smith Award, given to encourage gardeners in their first year. You can imagine how pleased they were to receive the recognition for their efforts and all the advice from contest judges.

Later in the summer, photographer Ira Beckoff visited the garden to capture on film the successful elements that made the judges take notice. These pictures were shown at the City Gardens Contest Awards Ceremony. When I looked at those pictures, I saw the reason for their success ... the people. Seems simple. People working together to make a dream come true. Yet anyone who has worked on a community garden knows the challenge of getting everyone to agree, of having enough help on planting day, of continuing to water, weed and water some more in the heat of the summer.

The people of Chadwick Street represent the newest generation in a long and tireless gardening tradition here in Philadelphia ... one that we all have a part in and of which we can all be proud.

Patricia Schrieber

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
Celebrating 20 Years

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

January/February 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

Vol. 17 • No. 2 • March 1995

Villa Nueva I: Blooming in the Badlands

by Tom Mishler, Community Landscape Architect

What do you do with a lot of active children and a big, barren gravel courtyard? The residents and management of **Adolfina Villa Nueva I,** located at 7th and Somerset in the Fairhill neighborhood, were faced with this question last year. **Tom Mishler**, community landscape architect with Philadelphia Green, worked with the **Heroilda Rodriquez** of **Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP)** and the mothers living in Villa Nueva I to come up with a new landscape plan for the courtyard.

The courtyard was originally designed by the architects and a design committee made up of future residents of the development, WCRP staff and board members. They emphasized the need for a place for children to play within the view of their kitchen windows. Small planting areas were designed by each kitchen door and the common courtyard was paved with crushed stone. Within days of moving in to their beautiful new homes the residents knew that the courtyard was a very big problem. The children tracked in the stone dust, forcing their mothers to mop two and three times each day to keep the kitchen clean. The unprotected planting beds were soon trampled compacted mud, the shrubs and groundcovers a distant memory.

Working with the residents, Tom and **Susan Mattison**, a landscape architect hired as a consultant by Philadelphia Green, came up with a plan to convert the courtyard into private gardens along a central tree-lined walkway or "ramblas". Susan prepared an illustrative plan and "before and after" sketches to help the women to understand very clearly what was being proposed. The residents strongly endorsed the plan and over the course of last spring and summer the courtyard was rebuilt. The residents themselves helped with demolishing heavy masonry retaining walls and moving existing trees to their new locations.

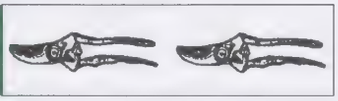
After new sidewalks and patios were installed, Philadelphia Green's tree crew, led by **Jonathan Frank**, installed flowering and shade trees in the courtyard.

Philadelphia Green's education staff helped the residents of Villa Nueva plant their new gardens. Jeff Myers taught the women about the new plants they would be growing in their gardens. The following Saturday PG's Jeff, Tom, **Janet Carter**, **Keith Green**, and **Jose Garcia** worked with the

(continued next page)

Grow With Us!

Clippings



Thanks!

Many thanks to **ADVANTA Corp**. of Horsham, PA for their generous contribution of $10,000 to fund the Community Gardens Improvement Project. As a new PHS initiative, this project will provide plants, construction materials, fencing and possible labor to help residents make repairs and improvements to community gardens located in Philadelphia Green's eight Greene Countrie Townes.

What makes the Community Gardens Improvement Project new and unusual is that GCT gardeners who choose to participate will assess the needs of their neighborhood green spaces and submit written proposals defining and requesting support for repairs and improvements. PG will conduct workshops to teach the fundamentals of proposal writing and include suggestions for identifying additional resources, financial or in-kind, from City agencies, foundations, corporations, and others. Through this training we hope to open doors for community gardeners to pursue other avenues of funding for their garden projects.

PHS also wishes to thank...

ARCO
BHC Securities
Boeing
The Connelly Foundation
The Independence Foundation
The Body Shop
Technitron, Inc

for their most recent support of the Pennsylvania Horticutural Society

Back then...

10 Years Ago at Philadelphia Green

"The **Point Breeze Federation** just found a new home at **1248 S. 21st Street.** They plan to have renovations completed by April and then begin to create a garden in the backyard of their building and an adjoining lot facing nearby Titan Street. They are anxious to see **Titan Terrace** completed and anticipate a beautiful setting to hold community activities."

"The **Smedley School Garden**, first prize winners in the City Gardens Contest and Sweepstakes winners at the Harvest Show, was recently featured in the Inquirer's Sunday Magazine. Food columnist Jim Quinn described their gardening success and recipe for 'Salt-Free Garden Doughnuts'."

Villa Nueva *(continued from first page)*

residents to plant. WCRP hosted a tasty picnic afterwards and **Nancy Gonzalez** prepared her famous Arroz con Gandules for everyone.

Susan Mattison worked with Keith Green and Villa Nueva resident **Christina Bonani**, to install the plantings in the common areas. WCRP hired Christina to care for the plantings and to water the trees. Christina attended Tree Tenders training hosted by PG's **Mindy Maslin**.

Plans for this coming spring include a new training program for the residents of Villa Nueva called **Garden Tenders**. They will also be invited to share their knowledge with the new residents of the recently completed Villa Nueva phase II. **Verlene Johnson,** PG Community Service Coordinator will oversee the greening of Phase II which includes private gardens for each unit, a community picnic garden, and two murals. The murals will be installed by the children and Philadelphia artist **Tom Sonnenberg.**

1995 FLOWER SHOW LECTURES & DEMONSTRATIONS

Come to the following FREE classes when you visit the Flower Show

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

11:00 **DRIED ARRANGEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN FLAIR** Eva Monheim, Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
11:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS w/Dr. Kerry Givens** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Minolta
12:15 **60 ORGANIC ANSWERS IN 60 MINUTES** Mike McGrath, Editor, Organic Gardening Magazine
1:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS w/Dr. Kerry Givens** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Minolta
1:15 **CREATING THE COTTAGE GARDEN STYLE**
Margaret Hensel, author, *English Cottage Gardening for American Gardeners*. Book signing to follow.
2:30 **ARRANGING UNUSUAL DRIED FLOWERS** Eva Monheim, Eve's Floral Creations, Glenside
2:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS w/Dr. Kerry Givens** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.
4:00 **UNUSUAL BULBS** John Amand, Flower Show major exhibitor

MONDAY, MARCH 6

11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS w/Dr. Kerry Givens** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.
12:30 **IKEBANA -THE JAPANESE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING**
Bernice Makin, Ronell Douglass, Kyungja Kim, Ohara School of Ikebana
12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS w/Dr. Kerry Givens** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.
2:00 **ARRANGING FRESH FLOWERS** Robert Lamsback, Lamsback Floral Design, Philadelphia
2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS w/Dr. Kerry Givens** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.
3:30 **AN INDIVIDUAL APPROACH TO FLOWER GARDEN COLOR**
Charles Cresson, author, *The Burpee Expert Gardener: Charles Cresson on the American Flower Garden.*
5:00 **GARDENING WITH WATER -- Building & planting fountains,swimming pools, lily pools, and water edges** James van Sweden, author, *Gardening with Water* (with Wolfgang Oehme). Book signing to follow.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

11:00 **LIVING WITH FLOWERS** Kathlene C. Sullivan, Ridley Park Florist; Carolyn Daley Brady, Alvin's Flowers; Andy Lemheney, Newtown Square Florist; Mark Mulvihill, Ridley Park Florist
11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak
12:30 **BULBS: WONDROUS PLANTS, FULL OF COLOR, CHARM & EXCITEMENT**
John E. Bryan, author, *Burpee Expert Gardener: John E. Bryan on Bulbs*. Book signing to follow.
12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak
2:00 **KOREAN FLOWER ARRANGING** Im Wha Kong, National Flower Arranger, Korea
2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak
3:30 **EASY CARE SHADE GARDENS**
Patricia Taylor, author, *Easy Care Perennials, Easy Care Shade Flowers.* Book signing to follow.
3:30 **ORCHARD MASON BEES** Brian L. Griffin, Bellingham WA. Author, *The Orchard Mason Bee: Native Fruit Tree Pollinators.*
5:00 **ANNUALS & PERENNIALS IN CONTAINERS**
Michael Bowell, Flora Design Associates. Author, *"Potted Gardens, Dimensions in Color"*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

11:00 **OUT OF THE WILDS & INTO THE GARDEN**
Juliet Alsop Hubbard, author, *Wildflowers: Burpee American Gardening Series*. Book signing to follow.
11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak
12:30 **WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS, SOUP TO NUTS** Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers & Formal Wear
12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak
2:00 **WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS, SOUP TO NUTS** Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers & Formal Wear
2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak
3:30 **IKEBANA -- THE JAPANESE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING**
Jane Morrison, Deborah Scott, Adelaide Swanson, Ichiyo School of Ikebana
5:00 **PARTY! PARTY! PARTY!** Stan Tropiano, Carlino of Roxborough Flowers & Formal Wear

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

11:00 **TUSSIE MUSSIES--THE VICTORIAN ART OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF IN THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS** Geraldine Laufer, author, *Tussie Mussies, The Language and Sentiment of Flowers*. Book signing will follow.

11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak

12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak

12:30 **SIX PRINCIPLES OF GARDENING** Cassandra Danz, author, *Mrs. Greenthumbs: How I Turned a Boring Yard into a Glorious Garden and How You Can, Too*. Book signing to follow.

2:00 **CLIMBING ROSES FOR EVERY GARDEN** Stephen Scanniello, author, *Climbing Roses*. Book signing to follow.

2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak

3:30 **IKEBANA -THE JAPANESE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING**
Helen Flaig, Ikenobo School of Ikebana

3:30 **ORCHIDS** Michael Bowell, Flower Show major exhibiter

5:00 **RIGHT ARRANGEMENT, RIGHT CONTAINER** Bernice Makin, Master Flower Arranger

7:00 **WATER GARDENING CLINIC—POOLS, PONDS & PLANTS** Don Schnoor, Lotus of America

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

11:00 **CUTTING GARDENS**
Chet Davis, author, *Burpee American Gardening Series: Cutting Gardens*. Book signing to follow.

11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak

12:30 **TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL FLOWER ARRANGING** Cheryl Turkott, Flowers On Location

12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak

2:00 **IKEBANA -THE JAPANESE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING** Mariko Ono, Sogetsu School of Ikebana

2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc. and Kodak

3:30 **FRAGRANT HERBS** Lorraine Kiefer, Twin Oaks Herb Farm

5:00 **VICTORIAN PRESSED FLOWERS** Linda Villa, G.A.L.S. Flowers

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

11:00 **THE WELL-CLAD & FRAGRANT WINDOWSILL**
Tovah Martin, author, *Burpee American Gardening Series:Well-Clad Windowsills.* Book signing will follow.

11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.

12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.

2:00 **PONDS IN THE US** Karla Sperling, National Pond Society

2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.

3:30 **IKEBANA -THE JAPANESE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING Multi-School Demonstration**
Yuriko Moriuchi, Ikenobo; Mary Ricketson, Koryu; Midori Tanimune, Sogetsu; Young Yum, Ohara

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

11:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.

12:30 **ROSES--CLASSIC AND MODERN**
Judy McKeon, Chief Horticulturist & Rosarian, Morris Arboretum. Author, *Encyclopedia of Roses.*

12:30 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.

2:00 **EASY, BEAUTIFUL LAWNS** Larry Sombke, author *The Environmental Gardener.* Videos and Book-signing to follow.

2:00 **PHOTOGRAPHING FLOWERS** Workshop by Camera Shop, Inc and Minolta.

3:00 **VEGETABLE GARDENING** H. R. Draper, Penn State University's Urban Gardening Program

All sessions will take place in the second floor Auditorium of Pennsylvania Hall.
To get to Pennsylvania Hall, take the escalators behind the Marketplace area.
All lectures are in Room "A," except Photographing Flowers, which will be held in Room "B."
This schedule is subject to change. Updates will be posted daily on pillars throughout the Show floor.

What's Coming Up?

Garden Galleries 1995 Philadelphia Green Flower Show Exhibit

Community gardeners create beautiful spaces with colorful palettes of plants. Flower and vegetable gardens and streets lined with trees and planters flourish throughout the city as living testament to the hard work and creativity of hundreds of residents.

For the past twenty years the annual City Gardens Contest has served to inspire and reward gardening excellence. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the City Gardens Contest we also recognize the creativity and artistic inspiration of the murals, mosaics and sculptures found in these gardens - art created with the community for the pleasure of anyone who passes by.

The **Village of Arts and Humanities**' Angel Walk and Tree of Life mosaics will be replicated in the exhibit, as well as the stone sculpture from **El Batey** in Norris Square, and the woven grapevine arbor from **Seedy Acres**. Also represented is a garden mural by the **Philadelphia Anti-Grafitti Network.**

1995 Challenge Class

All participants grow their own entries in a container from the same variety of seeds. In addition to quality, size and condition, the entries in the class are judged according to how typical they are to a variety standard. Participants will bring their specimens to the Harvest Show on either Thursday, September 14 or Friday, September 15.

Order free seeds for the 1995 Harvest Show Challenge Class by calling 625-8280.

Osteospermum h. 'Tetra Pole Star'
An easy to grow annual that is beginning to be seen again. Great for containers in sunny locations, the daisy- type flower is silvery with a rim of bright violet.

Thymus comosus
For all the thyme fans, this new introduction is one to try! Among its assets, the tidy, compact plant blooms like crazy, covering the plant with light pink flowers and gives off a wonderful fragrance. Stems and leaves are ideal for potpourri or sachet.

Cucumber 'Salad Bush Hybrid'
This All-America Winner is the one to grow in a container for high yield in a small space. Highly resistant to troublesome diseases common to cucumbers.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

A special garden sprouted last spring at 16th and South Streets. One of the most significant contributions this garden offers the surrounding community is how it draws people together. South Street, long a neighborhood dividing lin, now hosts a garden where neighbors, young and old, from different backgrounds, work together. In return, each offers his or her own gifts.

Tanya Cox rallied the neighbors and business people, organized the garden dedication in May, which Mayor Rendell and 200 guests attended, and coordinated many work days. **Juan Levy**, a developer and architect, used his business savvy to help design the garden, order materials and install the brick patio. He was there on work days as well. **Ron Washington**, of Ron's Ribs, offers a perennial meeting space in his nearby restaurant and provided food to be sold at the dedication as a fundraiser. The **Reverends Louise** and **George Long**, pastors of the neighborhood church, bring family members to every work day and meeting. They also participated in the dedication festivities.

As they created the garden, these folks saw a chance to teach children how their neighborhood could be changed if they worked together. And so they adopted Bookworms, an afternoon learning center where neighborhood children ages 6 to 12 receive homework help and tutoring. **Michele Ryan,** the center's founder and coordinator, considers Bookworms extremely lucky to have been adopted by their gardening neighbors.

Pearl, Calvin, Antwan, Ernest, Matachia, Tiantay and Yameena are some of the enthusiastic **Bookworms** who gardened there last summer, each tending a small plot of favorite vegetables and flowers, most gardening for the first time.

The young Bookworms captured a tie for Third Place Children's Gardens in the City Gardens Contest. They are proud winners of seven ribbons in the 1994 Harvest Show. They finished off their first successful season in the South Street Children's Garden with a bulb planting workshop led by PHS Council member **Lee Raden.** He was excited by their energy and eagerness to learn. Lee saw the youngters digging dirt filled with debris, dreaming of the flowers that would pop up. Can you imagine their surprise when they see the first daffodils this spring?

If you happen to have a copy of Worms Eat My Garbage, or any other books or tools to share, Bookworms would love to be adopted by a few more gardeners like their South Street friends. You can visit these gardeners and see for yourselves any afternoon. Just call Bookworms at 546-5851.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

March 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

Vol. 17 • No. 3 • April 1995

Parents Planting Knowledge

by Valerie Marshall, Kathy Ramcsak and Janet Carter

Teachers, school administrators, parents and students are writing a new chapter in the **Meade Elementary School** story. Not too long ago, the faculty noticed that some parents needed to be more involved in their children's education. A group of teachers and active parents came up with a project called "Parents Planting Knowledge" to develop stronger bonds between parents and their children. They saw this as an opportunity to encourage children to be excited about learning from their parents.

Over the past few months, twelve parents and their children have participated in "Parents Planting Knowledge" through a series of holiday-related workshops, with technical assistance from the Philadelphia Green staff. Each parent and child teamed up to make an Evergreen Centerpiec, Valentine Floral Arrangement and Easter Basket. These workshops provide a medium for creativity through the use of natural materials. Success is immediately shared through creative cooperation between parent and child. They make decisions together with each arrangement being as unique as the individuals creating them. The project offers parents enlightenment, direction and encouragement. Everyone is so enthusiastic about their efforts that while the fresh flowers and greens can't last forever, the love cultivated between parent and child will always be in full bloom. As **Akia Thomas** said, "I like doing the plant with my mom. When my mom is in school with me I'm happy."

The response to the project is exciting. The school administrators appreciate that they are able to meet more parents. The teachers are pleased that the students and their parents share very intimate and positive learning experiences. The project leaders hope that the importance of sharing quality time as a family will be understood, become contagious and extend to the rest of the school and community. **Robert Nottingham**, President of the Meade Home and School Association, remarked, "Whenever Meade School and PHS have held hands we have grown together. Our friendship and our green growth are just like the trees that thrive around the school."

The project leaders just received word that their request for $500 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education has been granted. They will use the grant money for books, art and garden supplies, as well as fees for a storyteller, buses and admission to places like **Bartram's Garden** and the **Morris Arboretum**.

***Valerie** is Special Education teacher, **Kathy** is School Counselor at Meade School, and **Janet** is Assistant Education Specialist with Philadelphia Green.*

Spring Garden Sale!

Mark **Saturday, April 29th** for the **Philadelphia Green Community Gardeners' Sale.**

Pick-up times are assigned in the order that we receive your payment, so if you want an early pick-up time, please send your order in ASAP. **No orders will be accepted after the deadline of April 11th.**

This sale is a service to Philadelphia Green gardeners and is not open to the public.

Clippings

Movers and Shakers

Residents and homeowners on the **1700 block of West Page Street** decided they had had enough. The vacant houses adjacent to their back yards on Fontain St. were falling down, littered with trash and rats. Block Coordinator **Helen Tillery**, along with **Louis Tillery** and neighbors **Joseph King, Thomas Howard, Marcellus Pringle, Pam Jenkins** and **Kim Jackson** called the City Department of Licenses & Inspections and had the houses demolished and the area fenced. The group is working with Philadelphia Green to plan for greening the open space this spring.

Window Sashes with Glass

The frames are recycled from old homes and are available to gardeners. They are painted wood and can be used as cold frames or built into small sheds. AVAILABLE FREE.

Call **Al Nardi** at 336-3448.

Special Thanks

Big thank-you's to **Sandrus Clark**, who pitched in to get the *PG News* produced back-stage at the Flower Show.

Hats Off!

At the recent **Gardeners' Gala** Brunch at the Flower Show, several special individuals and groups received awards of appreciation:

HERB CLARKE & DIANE ALLEN, honorary co-chairs of the City Gardens Contest for enthusiastic support and commitment to the City Gardens Contest, offering praise and providing acknowledgment to city gardeners for their skillful and imaginative gardening.

JEAN BYALL, coordinator 1980-1986 for promoting the City Gardens Contest, expanding participation and establishing the contest as a Philadelphia tradition of recognizing gardening excellence.

PEARL ROMANS (1986-1987), **FLORIE DOTSON** (1988-1989), **JIM LA ROSA** (1990-1992), **VIVIAN VAN STORY** (1993-1994), **CHET CARMICHAEL** (current) for their leadership in setting the direction of the City Gardens Contest while serving as committee chairs.

PHILADELPHIA ANTI-GRAFFITI NETWORK
Tim Spencer **Deitrich Adonis** **Ray Brooks**
Jane Golden **Alvino Pearson** **Alfredo Ramos**
for providing outstanding public art to enhance & dramatize Philadelphia's community gardens.

What's Coming Up?

Herbal Events

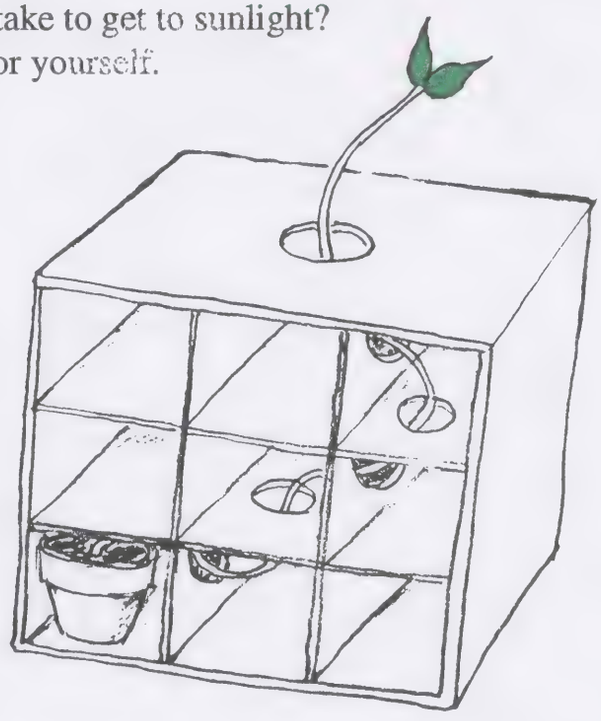
April 20 10-noon **Growing & Using Herbs**
Aldys Davis, Herbalist
Garden of Gethsemane Vine St. betw. 54th & 55th

May 9 10:30 AM **Herbs in the Garden**
Las Parcelas 2257 N. 2nd St. Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening

May 13 10 AM to 4 PM **Herb Sale**
Morris Arboretum, Chestnut Hill
Sponsored by Herb Society of America, Philadelphia Chapter

A-Maze-ing Bean Plants

How many twists and turns will a plant take to get to sunlight?
Build a plant maze and see for yourself.



What You Need:

dried beans
cardboard carton with dividers and lid
(you can get this at a grocery store)
small flower pot
potting soil
freezer tape

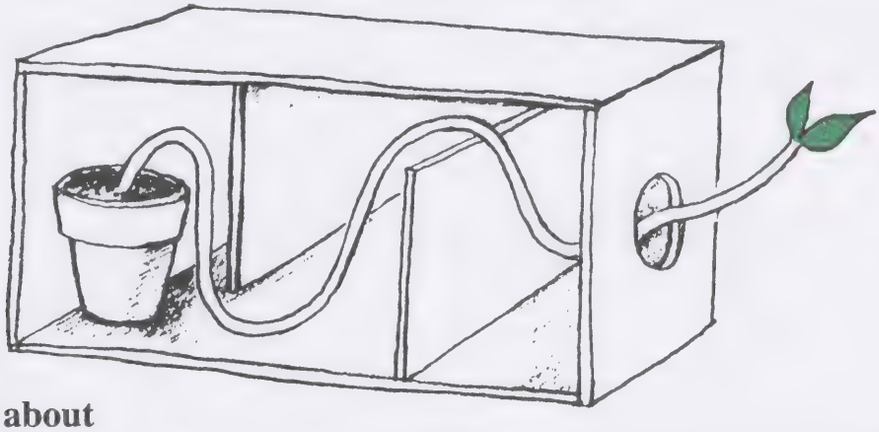
What to do:

1. Cut holes in the dividers of the carton to make a maze (see the drawing). The holes should be about 2 in. in diameter.

2. Plant four dried beans in a small flower pot. Place the pot in a corner of the carton as far away from the outside hole as possible.

3. For two weeks, keep the carton lightly sealed so that no light can get in through the lid. You might need to wrap freezer tape around the lid to keep the light out.

4. Every two or three days, open the carton to water the beans. Don't leave the lid off the box for too long, since even a little light could change the results.



5. **Things to think about**
   After a few days, what do you see happening? What color is the plant and why? How long did the stem get before it grew true leaves? How long did it take to reach the light?

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

A favorite places for Philadelphia Green friends to visit is our exhibit at the Society's annual Flower Show, which emerges from the concrete floor of the Philadelphia Civic Center in only 10 days. What makes the process work is the contributions of the many volunteers, corporate sponsors, and neighborhood artists who help us create our exhibit each year.

Veteran volunteers **JoAnn Fishburn, Blanche Epps and Edna Jones**, with staff designer **Anne Vallery**, have among them about 52 years of experience working on exhibit set-up. On Thursday afternoon before Show opening, the volunteer trio created the vegetable garden. Earlier that day, staffers **Sally McCabe, Winfred Young** and artist **Sandra Brownley** brought in an arbor and fencing woven from weed trees and grapevines. Sandra and students from **The University of the Arts** had created the arbor and fencing for the **Seedy Acres Community Garden** in Northern Liberties. When the Show opened to the public, the arbor was a favorite conversation piece. "Wouldn't this look great in our garden?" "How can I do that?" "Will the grapevine sprout?"

Students from the **High School of Creative and Performing Arts** worked with us to build the dramatic and colorful Angel Alley and the Tree of Life mosaics inspired by **Lily Yeh** and **The Village of Arts and Humanities** in North Philadelphia left people in awe. A crescent of symbolic stones copied from **El Batey Garden** represented **Norris Square**, the first Hispanic Greene Countrie Towne. **Meridian Bank,** a supporter of Philadelphia Green's exhibit for the last few years, lent a bench for use in the exhibit. The bench was one of twelve artworks featured in the 1995 *Days of Hope* calendar, which is used as a fundraiser for organizations working with the homeless. Led by artist **Carolynne Miller**, the bench was created by mothers and children from **Community Housing Services,** a program for low-income families.

On Monday, **Doreen Martin**, a volunteer who works on the Ribbon of Gold in front of Eastern State Penitentiary, enthusiastically greeted the crowds and showed off the many features of the exhibit. Volunteers **Chet Carmichael** and **Daisy Reddick**, who told people about the **City Gardens Contest's 20th Anniversary**, liked the exhibit because it was so much like a Philadelphia neighborhood, complete with community gardens and backyard gardens.

We say thanks to our Philadelphia Green partners for helping put together another exhibit that tells the story of community gardening in our city.

Patricia Schrieber,
Education Manager

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

April 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 17 • No. 4 • May 1995

Greenspace Alliance Forms

by Charlotte Kidd, Special to the PG News

The energy was high, the room packed with Philadelphians committed to preserving and expanding the city's green space. In early February, 140 community activists, city officials, and interested individuals brought their ideas and enthusiasm to the GreenSpace Alliance's workshop at Thomas Jefferson University's Alumni Hall.

The half-day's events dovetailed the city's grass-roots efforts with the Alliance's regional work of increasing and better maintaining protected green space. The **GreenSpace Alliance of Southeastern Pennsylvania** comprises organizations in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. The Alliance intends to use county priorities elicited in public meetings as the foundation for regional priorities and future action.

photo: Neil Benson for Greenspace Alliance

Trudy Gay, community activist with Wharton Square in South Philadelphia, recently spoke at the Greenspace Alliance planning meeting

"Philadelphia County is very much a part of the GreenSpace Alliance that spans five counties," said **Blaine Bonham**, Executive Director of Philadelphia Green and member of the Alliance's Steering Committee. "One of the challenges is to develop a common agenda that looks at issues the city and the suburbs can work towards."

At the workshop, Blaine gave an overview of the city's green assets that set the stage for group discussions. "It was probably the first time that people representing so many different groups had come together to talk about the value of open space in Philadelphia," he said.

In focus groups led by National Park Service and Philadelphia Green staffs, participants discussed and developed priorities based on four areas: parks, natural areas, vacant land, and community greening.

The workshop also celebrated 'Models of Accomplishment' including brief talks by **Iris Brown** of Norris Square Green Countrie Towne, **Trudy Gay** with Wharton Square, **Joanne Fishburn** of West Philadelphia's Warrington Community Garden, **Tom Lederer** of the Kensington South Neighborhood Council Association, and Philadelphia Green's **Kathryn Newland** about the 26th Street Gateway.

For **Patrick Starr**, Director of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's GreenSpace Alliance, the half-day was a dynamic, energizing forum for members of parks groups, urban gardens, community development groups, and environmental groups. "People came to me and said they'd never known that other people cared about the same things they did," Starr said.

"I think we made an important first step in putting together a city agenda based on common concerns and issues and supporting one another."

"This outcome is related to our forming a Green Plan of strategies and action for Southeastern Pennsylvania," he added. "During Earth Week we hope to have a draft of strategies and actions. The final document will be ready in September."

For more information or to participate, contact **John Gannon** at Philadelphia Green, 625-8280.

Clippings

Take Our Daughters to Work

On Friday April 7th Philadelphia Green participated in National **Take Our Daughters To Work Day**. We adopted daughters from throughout the Philadelphia school system: **Marisol Cruz & Sheila Rivera** from **Central East Middle School; Erica Gripolia, Giulia Aquilino** and **Severna Stevenson** from **South Philadelphia High School; Bora Teap, Helene Sing, Marvella Morris, Lang Chheng, Janira Amadeo** from **Olney Elementary.** They were also accompanied by a counselor from **Olney Elementary**, **Taryn Griffin.** PG daughters included **Marta & Abby Perkiss, Elise Mishler, Mika Roy, Jenny Lukens,** and **Shanna McCabe Pokras**

Most of the daughters went to one of the park sites along I-95 for a pansy planting, while others stayed in the office learning different office functions as well as how Green Scene Magazine is published.

Take Our Daughters to Work is a national event that is sponsored by the **Ms. Foundation for Women**. If you would like more information on Take Our Daughters to Work ,call 1-800-676-7780. If your company is interested in participating, please call the School District of Philadelphia Office of Education & Employment.

Strawberry Mansion Get-Together

Gardeners representing nine different gardens gathered *without their tools* to celebrate spring and get to know each other. Because there are so many gardens in Strawberry Mansion, it's often hard for people to keep track of who's who.

Hello to **Denise Clark, Evelyn Forbes, Frank Davis, Roselee Young, Rosebell Wotson, Tommie Blocker, Lenora Jackson, Sam Greene,** and **Florie & John Dotson**, who came out to the pot luck/get together to tell who they are and where they garden, while sharing good food, recipes, and hints for making the spring season a huge success.

Volunteers Needed

City Hall in Bloom... We need your help planting annuals in City Hall's courtyards and sidewalks on Tuesday, May 23, from 9 - 4. Rain Date is May 24.

To volunteer, call Flossie at 625-8280.

First Tomato on the Vine

Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA), the organization that works to save gardens from being sold, is sponsoring a

First Tomato on the Vine Contest.

A gift certificate will be awarded to the community gardener who produces the first vine-ripened tomato of the season. An NGA staffer must see the tomato on the vine.

Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomato is ripe.

Tiller for Hire

Call Earl White at 232-6986 for prices.

Attention City Gardeners!!

Be a Judge:

Spend one day this summer tiptoeing thru the tulips or high-stepping among tobacco, cotton, zinnias & zucchini.

Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as the corner of a backyard.

Be a Contender:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the City Gardens Contest entry blank in the mail, or call 625-8280.

DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th.

Call Flossie at 625-8280 to volunteer as a judge or to register as a contestant.

A Day at
Well Sweep Herb Farm

Tuesday, June 6, 1995

We have a special treat in store for our trip to Well Sweep Herb Farm. A staff member from the farm will lead us on a tour of the gardens and answer questions about herbs and their many uses. We'll have plenty of time to browse, buy herbs to grow in our gardens and share a picnic lunch.

Cost per person: $5.00. Bring pot luck for lunch.

Departure: 9:00am
From: 325 Walnut Street
Return: 4:00pm

_____ Tear Off _____

I'm / We're going on the June 6 trip to Well Sweep Herb Farm.

Name: _____ Number of Reservations: _____ Total Enclosed: $_____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Please Return to: Patricia Schrieber
PHS
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

By June 1

Cultivating Kids

Junior Flower Show Celebrates 20th Birthday May 17-18, 1995

Budding artists and horticulturists from throughout the Delaware Valley are invited to attend the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 20th annual **Junior Flower Show, May 17-18.**

The Bourse Building (21 South 5th Street) is the location for this year's Show, and over 1,000 entries of student-grown vegetables, flowers, hanging plants, and artistic creations will be on display.

If you have school age children, encourage their teachers to bring the class to the Junior Show after school. The Junior Flower Show will be held 10:00 am - 6:00 PM, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Bourse Building is located between Market and Chestnut Streets, with entrances on 4th and 5th Street. **Admission is free.**

To order your own Junior Flower Show Schedule Booklet, call 625-8280.

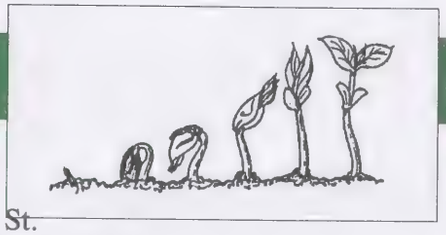
ARTISTIC CLASSES

1. ***Party Favor Arrangement:*** - A small, festive arrangement, of fresh and /or dried plant material. Can include a small party favor.
2. ***"Sweet 16" (Quinceañero)*** -Flower arrangement for a sweet 16 birthday or quinceañero (15) party table.
3. ***Crafty Creatures : "Party Animals"***- Creatures made from only dried plant material, seed pods, etc.
4. ***Gift Box-*** A gift box decorated with seeds, beans and dried plant material.
5. ***Dried Arrangement: an "Over the Hill " Flower Arrangement-*** An arrangement of dried flowers and plants in a party shoe.
6. ***Party Hat*** - A hat for a birthday party decorated with natural materials.
7. ***Scarecrow:*** - A scarecrow dressed up for our fancy party.
8. ***Pressed Plant Junior Flower Show Birthday Card*** - Design a birthday card for the 20th Birthday of the Junior Flower Show. Use <u>pressed</u> flowers and / or foliage to make the design.
9. ***Vegetable Print Wrapping Paper-*** A block print design, using cut vegetables as the printing tools.
10. ***Piñata*** - A piñata made and decorated from natural and recycled materials.

ENTRY RULES

- Check age division eligibility before entering artistic classes.
- Each exhibitor will be permitted to exhibit only one entry in each artistic class.
- Each artistic class is limited to a total of 10 entries from each classroom or group.
- All plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except in artistic classes. All plants must have been cared for by the exhibitor for at least <u>two months</u> prior to the Show, and have been grown in exhibit containers.
- An exhibitor may have more than one entry in a horticultural class if plants are of different varieties.
- Artificial plant material not permitted. Everything used must benatural. Accessories permitted where specified.
- Some horticultural classes are limited. <u>Please bring only the number of entries allowed under each class</u>.

What's Coming Up in June



May 9	**Herbs in the Garden** 10:30 AM	Las Parcelas, 2257 N. 2nd St. Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening 560-4167
May 13	**Herb Sale** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Morris Arboretum, Chestnut Hill Sponsored by Herb Society of America, Philadelphia Chapter Admission $3, $1.50 for seniors. For info call 247-5777
May 13	**Eastern State Penitentiary Workday** 9:00 AM to 12 noon	For more info, call Flossie at 625-8280
May 17 -21	**Junior Flower Show** — Bourse Building, 21 S. 5th St. Mon., May 15, 11 AM to 5 PM Wed., May 17, 10:00 - 6:00 Thurs., May 18, 10:00 - 6:00 Fri., May 21, 9:30 - 3:30	 Registration Open to the Public Open to the Public Entry Removal
May 20	**Azalea Garden Workday/Pruning Workshop** Fairmount Park 9:00 AM to 12 noon	For more info, call Flossie at 625-8280
May 23	**City Hall in Bloom** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Rain date May 24 For info, call Flossie at 625-8280

Plant seeds:
annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots

Plant transplants:
broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:
peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

Tips for transplanting

Pick the perfect transplant
- buy short, stocky plants
- look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best
- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon
- after soil is amended and turned

How to plant
- remove gently from pot
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill thehole.
- remove any flowers or buds to encourage strong root systems.

One week later
- water with liquid plant food, following directions on label.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The **Greene Countrie Towne (GCT) Leaders Network**, formed in 1991, has grown into a circle of supportive friends. Community leaders who joined in the beginning included **Dorsha Mason** and **Donna Thorpe** (*West Hagert*), **Mamie Nichols** and **Haroldline Trower** (*Point Breeze)*, **Rachel Bagby**, **Willie Mae Bullock** and **Sharon Turner** (*Susquehanna*). As they shared information and ideas, common bonds drew them closer together.

In that first year, members collaborated with our staff on a reference book called the Gardeners' Guide. **Gloria Trower** and the **Point Breeze Federation** hosted a garden party in Fall 1991. Soon after, the group welcomed members from **Strawberry Mansion**, led by **Florie Dotson**, who put on a truly memorable dedication the following Fall. They held two days of festivities, one for supporting organizations, and the other for community members, named "**People's Day.**" We gathered at the Fall meeting that year to mark the tenth anniversary of West Hagert's dedication as the first Greene Countrie Towne.

In 1993, Norris Square GCT joined the Network, unveiling dedication plans that would recognize theirs as the first Hispanic GCT. **Iris Brown, Tomasita Romero** and **Sister Carol Keck** assured us that their celebration would be **Escandalo,** something people would talk about for a long time. It truly was, with songs from children in colorful handmade costumes and tours of gardens called "Las Parcelas," "El Batey" and "Raices," depicting the beauty of Puerto Rican culture. Where other dedications ended with the release of balloons or tossing of rose petals, this one finished with a strumming guitar and circling white doves.

At the Network's meeting this Spring, **Marjorie Thornton** described the second annual Black History Month celebration hosted by the Susquehanna Garden Club. **Lenora Jackson-Evans** talked about the holiday and dish garden workshops she and other community leaders conducted for Strawberry Mansion youth. **Theresa McCormick** reported on the Children's Day organized by her block in Point Breeze. After the youngsters helped on clean-up jobs for elder neighbors, they were rewarded with a cookout.

The Network members look forward to strengthening the links that connect their communities.

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
May 1995

Philadelphia Green News
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 17 • No. 5 • June 1995

Garden Partners

by Charlotte Kidd, Special to the PG News

Gardeners know that chatting with a seasoned expert can yield surprising planting tips and new perspective. This season a group of community gardeners in Strawberry Mansion have the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with volunteer advisors willing to share years of experience.

Philadelphia Green formed the Strawberry Mansion Garden Partners, made up of five groups of community gardeners and nine Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Council and committee volunteers. Participants will work together from May through October. They'll combine neighborhood interest with gardening know-how to create well-tended gardens and cultivate on-going community relationships.

Gardeners from **2429-37 N. Marston Street**, **31st and Norris Streets**, **29th and Arizona Streets**, the **French Street Cluster**, and the **Tanner Triangle Cluster** are eager to team up with their own garden advisors this summer. Taking stock of last year's successes and challenges, the gardeners met with PG staff **Janet Carter** and **Jeff Myers** in February to talk about the help they need.

At the April training session, volunteers and gardeners talked about their gardens, started seeds, and divided perennials. Throughout the summer, gardeners and volunteers will work together on regular maintenance, garden design, pruning skills, and attracting new gardeners.

Walt Fisher and **Tina Colehower** already got a taste of the dedication of Strawberry Mansion gardeners at a work day in April at the **Etting Street Garden** with **Tom Blocker.** In May, **Cynthia Cheston** and **Patty Wurtz** shared their expertise in gardening with children at a workshop in **Lenora Jackson-Evans'** garden on French Street. Other volunteer partners include **Mary Jo Strawbridge** and **Ann Kellett**, **Raul Betancourt,** and **Ann** and **Frank Reed.**

As part of their training this summer, Partners will visit Chanticleer, a 30-acre pleasure garden in Wayne. In the fall, they'll share experiences, seeds, and plant divisions at a closing Garden Partners session.

"Participating gardeners stand to learn a lot from each other," says **Janet Carter**, who spearheads Garden Partners from the Philadelpha Green side of the program.

Eager Strawberry Mansion gardeners gather on French Street to improve their gardening skills.

Clippings

How Big???

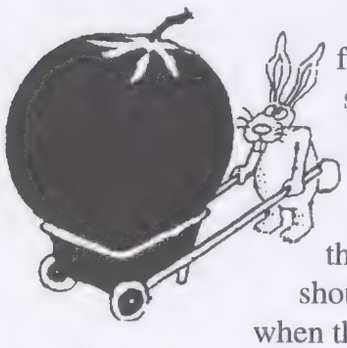
According to the **1995 Guinness Book of World Records**, and verified by **Penn State Urban Gardening**, Philadelphia now boasts the nation's largest community garden. The **Benjamin Rush Garden** at Byberry measures in at 342,000 square feet, or more than 8 1/2 acres, and has 210 families farming 308 plots.

Mantis Award Program

Mantis has announced a grant of Mantis tiller/ cultivators to ten community gardens around the country. In addition to the tiller, each group will get a border edger and introductory video. Time is short! To be eligible, call Ronnie at Philadelphia Green, 625-8280, for an entry blank. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 12, 1995.

First Tomato on the Vine

Attention Community Gardeners! It's time for the fifth annual "First Vine-Ripened Tomato" Contest, sponsored by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association**. First and second ripened tomatoes will get a prize--a gift certificate from Primex.



The contest is a chance for gardeners to have some rewarding fun with their tomato plantings. An NGA staffperson must see the tomato on the vine. Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomatoes start to ripen. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Cash to a Good Cause

Many plants in the Cash 'n Carry area of the 1995 Spring Garden Sale were grown by inmates at Graterford Prison in Montgomery County. According to **Tim Aureden**, who has been working since 1994 on the project, PRI**Hort**, Inc. was formed to provide programs and opportunities for personal growth and job training through horticulture. These plants were the first to be grown in their new greenhouse. Proceeds from the sale will be used by PRI**Hort** to pay for supplies and equipment for the greenhouse.

Cherry trees and Crabapples at the Sale came from closer to home — the Johnson Homes Tree Farm, part of the Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden. Proceeds went into a maintenance fund for the garden.

Tiller for Hire

Call Earl White at 232-6986 for prices.

Attention City Gardeners!!

Be a Judge:

Spend one day this summer tiptoeing thru the tulips or high-stepping among tobacco, cotton, zinnias & zucchini.

Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as the corner of a backyard.

Be a Contender:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the City Gardens Contest entry blank in the mail, or call 625-8280.

DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th.

Call Flossie at 625-8280 to volunteer as a judge or to register as a contestant.

Some Very Basic Tips about Working with Kids

- A picture is worth a thousand words. Never tell kids something you could show them.
- Young kids have a very short attention span. Make sure that you have lots of options available so they can get started immediately and stay busy. Digging holes is one thing that seems to hold endless fascination.
- Instant gratification helps a lot. Plant radishes even if you don't like them—they come up in three or four days.
- Growing their own will generally get kids to try eating things they otherwise wouldn't walk into the same room with.
- GETTING DIRTY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF GROWING UP.
- Your role should be as facilitator, rather than as a leader who imposes direction. Be a good model.
- When giving out supplies to several kids, try to keep seeds, tools, etc. as similar as possible to avoid the inevitable squabbles.
- After an activity, do something to reinforce what everyone has learned. Talk about what went on, who did what, who saw what. If you can, have them write things down or draw pictures. If they're too young, take dictation.
- Many kids who won't talk in a large group will often speak easily in a small group.
- When working with older kids (past about 13), one-to-one works better than groups, since gardening (and anything else that could get you dirty) is a remarkably un-cool and disgusting way to spend time. Try to add responsibility and ownership to projects. ("Quincy is in charge of the wheelbarrow today.") Try pairing up older kids with younger ones. Rest assured that if you give them a healthy respect for gardens and green things when they are young, it will all come back to them once the acne goes away.

18 27
PHILADELPHIA GREEN
325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777 • 625-8280
THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

Permission Slip for the Children's Garden

1. _____has my permission to garden.

2. The gate is open 9am-9pm. No child is permitted in the garden after 9pm unless accompanied by an adult with a key.

3. No children under six are allowed in the garden at any time unless accompanied by their own adult. WE ARE NOT A BABYSITTING SERVICE.

4. Parents or guardians will not hold either the garden coordinator or the owners of the properties responsible for any accidents, injuries, or mishaps that might occur in the garden or on the surrounding properties.

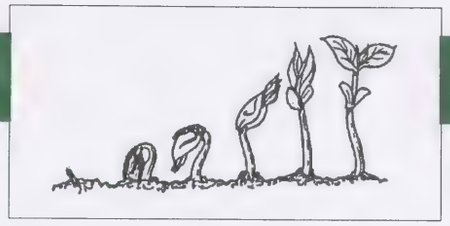
5. HAPPY GARDENING! If you're interested in spending time with your kids in the garden, feel free to drop in anytime.

Thank you!
Garden Coordinator

_____PARENT OR GUARDIAN

_____PARENT OR GUARDIAN

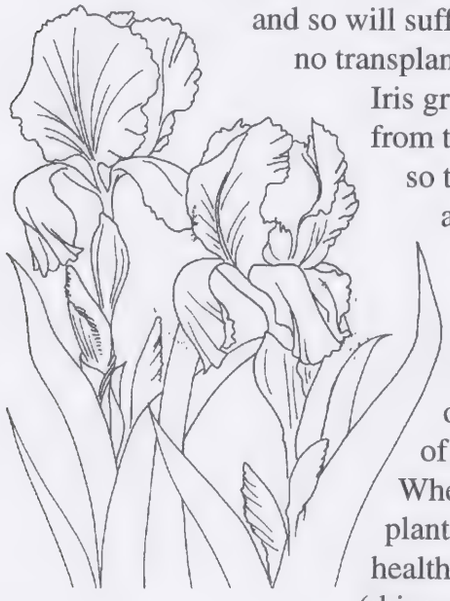
What's Coming Up in June



Too Many Iris?

By this time most of the iris will be done blooming. For young clumps, remove the old flower stalks so plants don't waste energy producing seeds. For older clumps, get ready to divide and conquer.

Clumps older than 3 or 4 years have gotten crowded and have used up the available nutrients, and will bloom less and less each year unless divided. This is the best time of year for this operation, since plants enter into an almost dormant state after blooming, and so will suffer almost no transplant shock.



Iris grow out from the center, so the youngest and healthiest roots are always on the outer edges of the clump. When dividing, plant the fattest, healthiest roots (rhizomes) in small bunches — three is best — with fans of leaves out and roots facing in.

Prepare the new planting spot (even if it's in the same spot as the old one) with plenty of compost or other organic matter and bone meal. The iris will live there undisturbed for several years, so you'll want to make sure they have plenty to eat.

A typical old clump of iris has at least five times as many roots as needed for the amount of space. Give the rest away, making sure to mark the bunches so people know what color their gifts will be when they bloom. Some gardeners even write the color or variety on the leaves with a laundry marker!

Blanching Cauliflower

Cauliflower planted in April should have flower buds the size of a fist by now. Blanching them will produce the biggest, whitest heads. In this case, blanching does not mean boiling lightly. What it does mean is tying up the large outer leaves over the flower head to keep out the sun. Cauliflower heads exposed to sunlight turn tough and green, and although they're still edible, they will taste very bitter.

To blanch, pull the outer leaves into a topknot. Tie them together with string or a rubber band. Keep them that way until harvest. Another way to blanch is to simply break a few leaves over the top of the head. With either method, always do it on a dry, sunny day so moisture won't be trapped inside and rot the buds.

Counting Backward

June & July are the times to start planning for your fall garden. And successful planning rests on your being able to count backwards.

Pick up any seed packet. Chances are good that somewhere in the planting instructions will be the important item DAYS TO HARVEST. This is an estimate of how long it will take before you'll be able to start picking anything of a reasonable size. This means the first leaf of lettuce, the first radish, the first taste of kale.

Since fall crops generally taste better if they mature in the cooler weather of September and October, take the days to harvest figure and begin to count backward from the beginning of October. Kale, which takes at least 60 days to mature, should be started when?? (Count back — September, August, and start plants in July.) 90 days brings you back to June, 100 days puts you to work even sooner.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

It's June! One of the things we hope everyone remembers is the deadline for the **City Gardens Contest** on June 10th. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the contest. The few gardeners left who haven't sent in their entry forms for 1995 may get in the contest-entering mood with this story of another award-winning garden. The rest are reminded that you have some great competition this year.

Genita Millhouse is a gardener who grows community pride as well as flowers and vegetables in her garden at **4941 West Stiles Street** in West Philadelphia. The garden, begun three and a half years ago, was born when Genita contemplated the many vacant lots on her block and envisioned a community garden. She spoke with people from **Habitat for Humanity** who were rebuilding houses on her block. They provided a volunteer landscape architect who listened to Genita's ideas. They started with six raised beds. A Habitat intern continued to work with Genita while she imagined more details for the garden. The garden gate and sitting area came next. Then an idea for a gazebo expanded into a pavilion where neighbors can gather every day.

Genita and her neighbors have worked hard to fulfill their garden dreams. The dedicated team of garden makers includes **Jackie Perry, Dawn Williams, Almeta McIver, Symantha Holloway, Frank Consol, Barbara Thompson, Lorena Bowens, Maretta Carter, Ann O'Donnell, Gennie Fair, Catherine Minnis, Sean Toner, Debbie Williams, Woodrow Millhouse,** and **Kristin Haskett**. They're all very proud of the beautiful garden they created together and the recognition they received through the City Gardens Contest. In addition to First Prize in the Small Community Combination Garden category, the garden was also recipient of the **1994 PNC Bank Community Gardens Award**.

Two teams of very enthusiastic contest judges had the chance to visit last summer. Their comments make it easy to understand why the Stiles Street garden was considered a winner. "Inspirational! This garden appears like a mirage. From its beautifully crafted gate to the productive raised beds, to the attractive shed in back, the effect is pretty and polished. Spectacularly high geraniums, pansies, petunias, roses, salvias and torenia, mostly in pink shades, border this restful square. On both sides, individual beds brim over with beans, cabbage, corn, peppers, squash and tomatoes. Just inside the garden but almost concealed by wisteria, is a little nook with handmade benches, one of the most pleasant private spots in the city in which to sit and reflect. The success of this garden can be measured by the fact that there is a waiting list of people who wish to garden here. Habitat for Humanity has started an impressive renovation and has inspired the neighborhood to create this oasis. No doubt this garden will continue to be a sterling example of community effort."

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

June 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 17 • No. 6 • July/August 1995

Kensington High Garden Club

by Tom Lederer, Kensingon South

On the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, members of the **Kensington High School's Garden Club** decided to clean up an abandoned lot near the school building. They chose the site because of prior attempts to develop a community garden there. However, the only evidence of organized activity was a lone linden tree, donated to the school after last year's Philadelphia Flower Show.

The club members were armed with a few garden tools, plenty of trash bags and a tremendous amount of high spirits. Horticultural guidance was provided by club sponsor **Kevin Santry**, technical aid by Trades Charter Coordinator **Mitch Cohen**, and the hard work by dedicated environmentalists. Students **Andres Ortiz, Steven McBride** and **Frank Quiles** learned how to operate hand sickles and a gas-powered weedwacker. In the meantime, **Kristin Babbit** and **Damon Towns** collected 65 bags of trash. After several hours of labor the lot was transformed into a small park. *(continued next page)*

4th Annual City Hall In Bloom

As the moving force behind "City Hall in Bloom," volunteers planted more than 6,000 flowers around the courtyard and perimeter of City Hall on May 23rd. The newly constructed beds planted on the south side became the first phase of the Avenue of the Arts streetscape project as well.

40 of **Kate Loal**'s 5th grade students from **Huey School** joined **Mayor Ed Rendell**, **F.P. Frog**, representatives of the **Avenue of the Arts**, and volunteers from the project's sponsor **PNC Bank**, the **Fairmount Park Commission**, and the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**. The **High School for the Creative and Performing Arts Girls' Choir** performed "Mood Indigo" during the noon program.

Guest planters on the beautiful May morning included **J. William Mills III**, Executive Director, PNC Bank; **William Mifflin,** Executive Director, Fairmount Park Commission; **Ellen Solms**, Executive Director, Avenue of the Arts; and **J. Blaine Bonham**, Executive Director of the Society's Philadelphia Green program.

The Society coordinates the annual event, and Fairmount Park oversees the maintenance of the beds year-round.

Guest planters Bill Mifflin, F.P. Frog, Blaine Bonham, Kate Loal, and Mayor Rendell

What's Coming Up in July & August

July 1-20	**City Gardens Contest**	Preliminary judging
July 14	**Edible Flower Arrangements** 10:30 Las Parcelas Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening	Blanche Epps, master gardener 2257 N. 2nd St.
July 24	**Flower arranging** 10 - noon Garden of Gethsemane Sponsored by Penn State Urban Gardening	Bernice Makin Vine Street betw. 54th & 55th
August 1-20	**City Gardens Contest**	Final Judging

Kensington High School Garden

(continued from front page)

The club members quenched their thirst and beamed with pride as they returned to their homes. To everyone's surprise, when we arrived back at the school the next day, we found that the community had caught the garden fever. The park had a newly painted picnic table, bench and trash can. Best of all, the neighborhood expanded the project to an adjacent lot. Everyone is positive that these efforts will now provide the Kensington community with a clean, green space for recreation and relaxation. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone who helped make this Earth Day so special for our own environment.

Plant in July from seed:

beans
beets
chinese cabbage
collards
corn
cucumbers
kale
lettuce
pansies

Wait for August:

peas
spinach, endive
radishes
garlic bulbs
carrots

First Ripe Tomato on the Vine

Attention Community Gardeners!There's still time to enter the fifth annual "First Vine-Ripened Tomato" Contest, sponsored by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association,** Philadelphia's garden land trust. First and second ripe tomatoes will get a prize--a gift certificate from Primex.

An NGA staffperson must see the tomato on the vine. Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the vine-ripened tomatoes appear. NGA, an organization dedicated to preserving land for continued community gardening, looks forward to hearing from you.

Contestants should call NGA at 625-8264 when the tomatoes get ripe.

WANTED

TREAD or ALIGNED

DISCARDED TIRES

This tire and 30,000 of its, friends are out on the street, and we want the community to support the effort by going out and getting them.

For more information about participating, please contact: The Philadelphia More Beautiful Commitee 685-3981

$15,000 BOUNTY

.50 CENTS FOR EACH TIRE

Edward G. Rendell, Mayor
Joseph C. Certaine, Managing Director
Sheriff: Lawrence M. Moy, Streets Commissioner
Posse : PhilaPride, Conrail, Dept. of Licenses & Inspection
Wheelabrator Falls, Domino Salvage Tire Div., Inc.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF STREETS
7th Floor - Municipal Services Building
1401 JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102-1676

LAWRENCE M. MOY
Commissioner

Dear Block Captain/Community Group Leader:

Last year the Streets Department collected and disposed of over 200,000 tires. There are still thousands of discarded tires in and around the neighborhoods of Philadelphia, and we need your help to stamp out this blight. This year our goal is to increase this number by removing an additional 30,000 tires from communities city wide. Working with the Streets Department as sponsors in this public/private partnership are PhilaPride, Conrail, Wheelabrator, Domino Salvage Tire Division, Inc., and the Department of Licenses and Inspections. Your organization can help with this effort by becoming one of the registered partners in the **1995 TIRE ROUND-UP PROGRAM.**

For eight (8) weeks, from Saturday June 10 to Saturday August 5, pre-registered organizations will be able to bring their collection of discarded tires for drop-off. The Streets Department will provide designated drop-off sites around the city, operating from Monday to Saturday. Within a month of the completion of the **Tire Round-up Program**, participants will receive a bounty of $.50 per tire. Reimbursement will be in the form of a check for the total number of tires dropped off under your group's identification number. Proceeds from the **Tire Round-up Program** are to be used for worthwhile community projects. Information regarding registration, program guidelines, drop-off locations and hours of operation is enclosed.

As you can see, this is an excellent opportunity for community groups to raise funds and, at the same time, participate in neighborhood clean-ups and beautification efforts that promote civic pride and neighborhood empowerment.

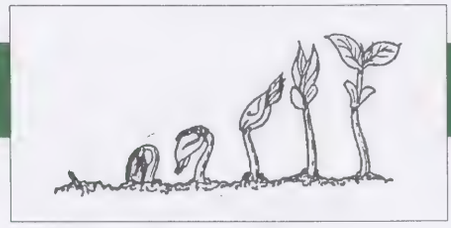
So Listen Up Partners! Saddle up and get ready for the **1995 Tire Round-up.** Have your bounty hunters roaming the range for any discarded tires in your neighborhood. The tires you drop off can turn into funds for your organization's project account.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Moy
Streets Commissioner

Joseph C. Certaine
Managing Director

CH
Encl. (1)



Beat the Heat!

Summer temperatures can make life difficult for flowers as well as gardeners. Here are some tips for surviving the heat:

- Use varieties that withstood the tests in years past:
  Everblooming Begonias - Roxys, Expressos
  Dianthus - Telstar Series
  Geraniums - Red Bandit, Orbit (seed-produced hybrids)
  Impatiens
  Pansies - F1 hybrids
  Petunias - Multiflora
  Common red salvia - Scarlet Queen, Lambrusco, Burgundy, Tops Series
  Vinca - Cooler series
  Phlox Drummondi - Petticoat Pink

- Impatiens need to be well watered if they are grown in full sunlight.
- If you would like your pansies to flower all season, try planting them early so they can get a head start before the hot weather.
- Surprisingly, not all marigolds hold up in the heat, although a few varieties do well. These are Janie, Tangerine, Orange Jacket, Yellow and Harmony Hero and Early Queen Sophia.

When starting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seedlings germinate much faster and are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care they get enough water during this stage of development.

Roots don't like to be hot, either. Mulch can be a very effective air conditioner for roots of trees, shrubs, or smaller plants. They can be made from any number of materials used to cover the soil, providing a barrier to weeds, an enrichment to the soil, and a way to retain moisture.

In the forest, nature provides a constant source of mulch by depositing leaves, twigs and other materials on the soil surface. In urban areas, nature's cycle is broken by removing this natural cover and replacing it with concrete and asphalt.

You can come to the aid of your trees and shrubs by being a substitute for nature; put down an enriching material like compost or old manure, and add a good cover of woodchips, shredded bark or bark nuggets.

Since your plants will benefit from the reduced weed competition and added moisture, maintain a covering of mulch throughout the growing season.

City Council Hearings

Many thanks to all who supported Philadelphia Green at the **Office of Housing and Community Development**'s budget hearings before City Council on May 30th. Familiar faces at the hearings included **Rachel Bagby, Iris Brown, Una Vee Bruce, Helen Clowney, Josephine Jackson, Lenora Jackson-Evans, Julia Proctor, Alice Robertson, Tomasita Romero, Marjorie Thornton, Alice Woods**, and others.

Rasheedah Hyman of **Friends Rehabilitation Program, Inc.** testified in favor of the Philadelphia Green program, and spoke eloquently about PHS's involvement at **Sarah Allen Homes** in Belmont.

Hundreds of supporters made phone calls and signed petitions to Council members.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

I saw **Harold Smith** as he came to the check-out table at our Spring Plant Sale and heard that the news was good again for **The Venango Street Vegetable Garden.**

This frequent winner in the City Gardens Contest and Harvest Show has thrived since 1982 due to the unity and hard work of its members. A large apartment house on Venango Street burned in 1978 making a vacant lot that extended from Pacific to Venango. Neighborhood residents saw a rise in crime and an accumulation of trash with each passing year. Then in 1982, members of the 1900 block of Pacific Street banded together under Harold's leadership to start the garden. One of the first to join was **Florence Lassiter,** a dynamic gardener whose many contributions are commemorated in a memorial garden plot. Speakers at the dedication ceremony for the memorial plot in 1992, quoted by **The Philadelphia Tribune**, described the garden as a "light", acknowledging its importance to the surrounding community.

Last year, a vacant house collapsed into one end of the garden, crushing a section of fence and strewing bricks and concrete. Without a secure fence, many of the gardeners were reluctant to plant their crops. Those that did plant worried over how well their plots would survive. Vandals came in through the opening and trampled plants, stole water drums and overturned full ones. The gardeners' morale was pretty low. Circumstances improved when gardener **Livvie Asasard** successfully obtained a donation of wire fence from the Community Economic Development Center to close the gap and extend the garden into an area that had never been fenced.

Harold and his wife **Patsy** have big plans for making a flower bed along the front of the garden which faces Pacific Street. Patsy and **Frances Hamilton** will tend the bed, a colorful addition which should be appreciated by City Gardens Contest judges. **Anderson Johnakin**, considered to have quite an eye for picking Harvest Show winners, will have free rein in September to choose the best entries from any plot within the garden. Harold's partners in this garden number 17, and all but two are elders. **Josette Brower,** Vice President, is a younger gardener who is honing her leadership talents under Harold's watchful eye.

Harold readily admitted that last year was a bad one for the gardeners. Yet he said, "My daddy taught me there's a good side to everything. It just takes time to find it. No one was hurt when the building fell. Once we got the new section of fence, we ended up with a larger garden. So we had a bad year. Now we have a good year." And then he smiled.

Patricia Schrieber, Education Manager

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Has your block recently planted street trees? Join other city green thumbers by entering the City Gardens Contest. The 1995 competition will include a special category for street trees. Phone Flossie at 625-8280 by July 15 to register your **Shady Lane.**

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

July 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 17 • No. 7 • September 1995

Susquehanna Garden Club Reports

by Lillie Adams, Susquehanna gardener

The Susquehanna Garden Club held its July meeting in the beautifully shady garden at **2611 Chadwick Street**. The subject was Controlling Garden Pests, and everyone had a "favorite pest" to contribute to the discussion. **Sally McCabe** of Philadelphia Green was the guest speaker.

Ms. Adams from **Glenwood Green Acres** mentioned that their major pests were rabbits! It seems they are eating bean plants down to the ground, so people are forced to replant several times.

Ms. Robinson's garden at **19th & Diamond** has a problem with tomato hornworms, which look large enough to carry whole tomatoes away.

Everyone seemed to be experiencing some type of pest or disease, including black spots and aphids on roses, bean and potato beatles, and worms in the soil, which everyone learned are a blessing, not a burden.

Discussion of pesticides and control methods centered around the idea that although there are thousands of different bugs in the garden, very few are harmful to plants or people. The best way to deal with them is to raise healthy plants that can resist pests, to be observant enough to know which pests you really have, and to be considerate of other gardeners and the environment if it becomes necessary to use pesticides.

After participants in the meeting crawled around investigating insects and insect damage with magnifying glasses, everyone visited another nearby garden in the **2600 Block of Chadwick**, (which showed very little pest damage,) and came back for a well-deserved refreshment break.

Barbequed Mosaic

by Linda Dickerson, PG staff

Gardeners at **Johnson Homes Vegetable Garden** have created the ultimate in useful art objects. Inspired by the Philadelphia Green Flower Show exhibit's angel mosaic, they used broken tile to create a beautiful art piece out of the cinder-block barbecue they built last year. PG staffers **Debbie Hall** and **Linda Dickerson** worked with volunteers **Chico Lee, Ralph Lee, Sylvester Miller, Jessie Parker and his children, Robert Zackery** and Urban Gardening's **Charles Young**.

Several garden cookouts later the grill still cooks as good as it looks!

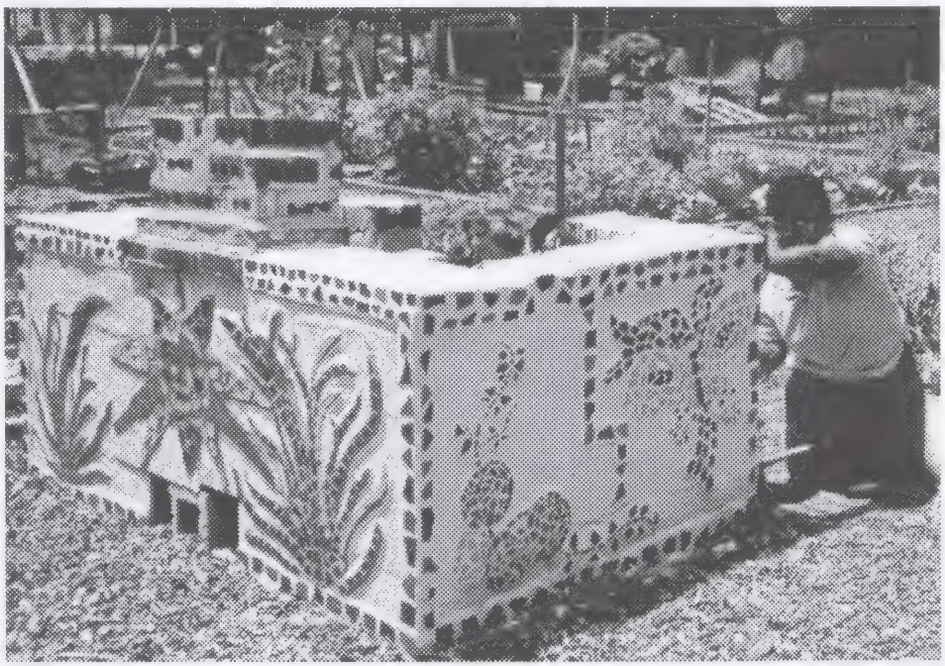


photo by Debbie Hall

Chico Lee adds the finishing touches to Johnson Homes' beautiful new barbeque, built by gardeners to be functional as well as eye-catching!

Clippings

Greene Countrie Townes Improvement Grants Project

We offer special thanks to the six Greene Countrie Towne gardeners who volunteered to form the committee that sifted through 60 GCT Community Garden Improvement Grants Applications. They worked hard, stayed late and kept spirits high.

Thanks to **Iris Brown, Tomasita Romero, Lenora Jackson-Evans, Haroldline Trower, Evelyn Forbes,** and **Marjorie Thornton.**

Environmental Camp at Wharton Square

About 30 children ages 5-12 are attending Day Camp at Wharton Square. **Bob** and **Trudy Gay** have set up a wide variety of activities that include a gardening program that meets twice a week. Our Parks Program is sponsoring the activity that allowed the campers to create the garden of their choice. **Mark Teller** of the Philadelphia Green staff has provided these junior gardeners with leadership and challenged their energies. These young gardeners planted a butterfly garden to create a habitat for some creatures that visit the park.

Come by and visit their garden when you are in the area!

Give Till it Helps

Did you know that you can direct your United Way pledge or contribution to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) to support Philadelphia Green through the Donor Option Program? If you traditionally give to United Way, we hope you will consider using your Donor Option and join a select group of PHS friends who contribute over $15,000 annually to the Society.

These contributions are vitally important to PHS because they represent unrestricted operating support for the Philadelphia Green program.

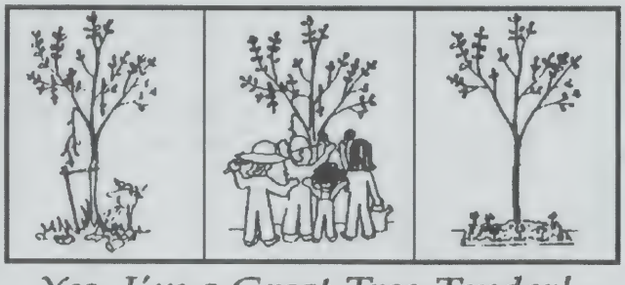
To ensure that your contribution is directed to PHS, please note our **Donor Option I.D.#06197** on your United Way pledge card.

Greening at Vernon Park

Thanks to a grant from the Small Businessmen's Association, **Skip Wiener** and his **Urban Tree Connection** crew were able to plant 14 new trees in Vernon Park with Philadelphia Green assistance. The amazing part of this story is that the 15-foot trees were planted by hand, on a hot, rain-threatening day in less than five hours. The Tree Connection crew showed what experience has taught them through their other plantings in Germantown. Philadelphia Green wishes to send a special thanks to Skip and his high school students.

Mosaic Mural Dedication at Meade School

The Meade School held a ceremony to celebrate the completion of a tile mosaic in the teaching garden, picturing the school building in the world of nature. All of the 800 plus students at Meade placed at least one of the 10,000 tiles. The project was led by teacher **Elizabeth Williams** and visiting artist **Tom Sonneberg**.



Yes, I'm a Great Tree-Tender!

Be a Tree-Tender

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is offering a three-part class and hands-on training to groups interested in caring for trees in their neighborhood. Training is free to groups that commit to organizing tree care days.

Thursdays, 6-9pm.
October 19th, 26th & November 2.
For more info, call Mindy at 625-8280.

Cultivating Kids

Family Activities at the Harvest Show

Join us in the Childrens' Tent for lots of Harvest-related entertainment for kids of all ages

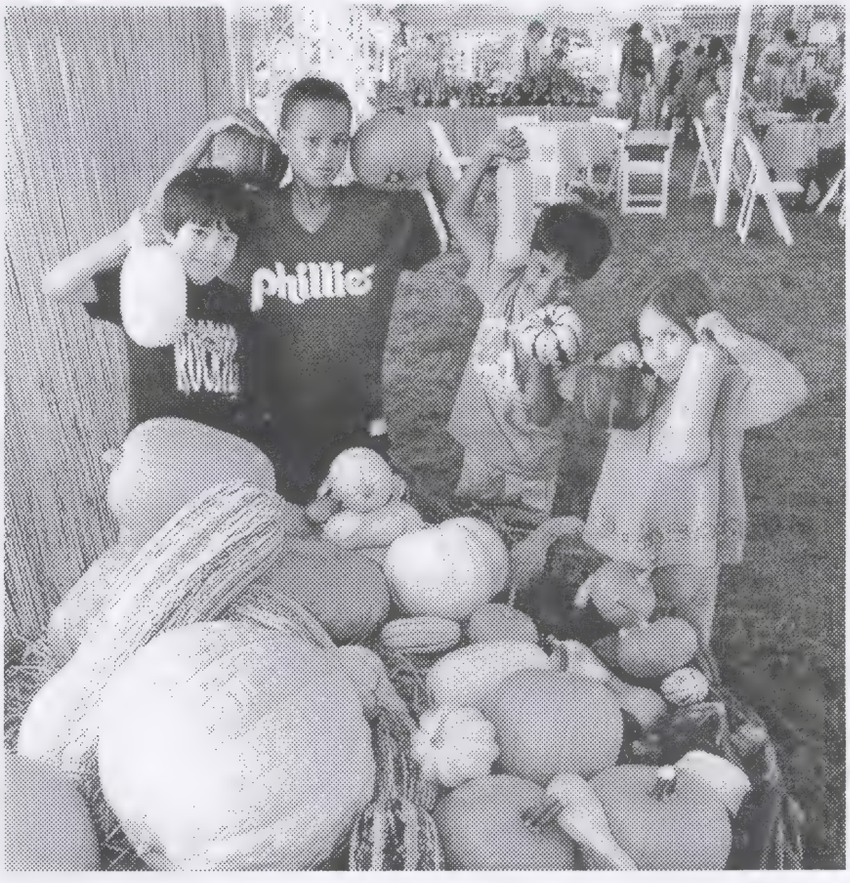


photo by Ira beckoff

10am-5pm

Hayrides*
Scarecrow Making
Toddler Haystacks

11:00am & 12:00pm

Environmental Jeopardy - children can test their knowledge of plants and the environment with this adapted version of the popular TV game show.

11am-1pm

Basket Decorating -
Hands-on flower arranging activity using dried seeds, pods and flowers.

11am-4pm

Children's Activity Tent - pumpkin painting, leaf mask making, potato prints, apple games & make a mask for the Masquerade Parade.

12-1pm (Sunday only)

A docent (teaching intern) from the Philadlephia Zoo will bring several zoo inhabitants to the Children's Tent and talk about the interesting and varied characteristics of each one.

1-3pm

"The Autumn Games," recapture the Olympic spirit in these rousing events for the entire family - Sack Slalom, 10 Meter Pumpkin Push and Bean Put.

3pm (Saturday & Sunday)

Masquerade Parade. Join strolling musicians and others to celebrate *Carnival Thyme*.

*Hayrides cost $1.00 per person

What's Coming Up in September

September 11 Monday	5:30-7	**Harvest Show Workshop** 47th & Warrington *See below*
September 15 Thursday	3:30-7	**Registration** for the Harvest Show Horticulture Center
September 16 Friday	7:30-10 AM 4-7	**Registration** for Harvest Show **Opening Celebration** *See coupon next page for 2 free tickets*
September 17 Saturday	10-5 12-4 6-8:30	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Join the fun with your children **HARVEST PARTY !!** *See coupon next page for 5 free tickets*
September 18 Sunday	10-5 12- 4	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple bobbing, games, scarecrow making and more!
September 29 Saturday	6:30 PM to ?	**Dance of the Ripe Tomatoes** *See below*
October 14 Saturday	9-3	**Sea Change Tree & Harvest Sale** Sea Change Horticulture Center, Oxford & Carlisle Streets For more info. call Barbara at 978-5930

Harvest Show Lectures & Demos

Saturday, Sept 16

12:30 **Growing Orchids at Home**
Michael Bowell, Flower Show exhibitor

1:30 **Arranging the Harvest: Fruits, Vegetable & Flowers**
Eva Monheim, Eve's Floral Creations

2:30 **Herb Vinegars & Cooking with Herbs**
Lorraine Kiefer, Triple Oaks Herb Farm

3:30 **Elegant Edible Flowers**
Jill Ann Williams, Sudden Elegance, Inc.

Sunday, Sept 17

1:00 **Arranging Flowers in Unique Containers**
Bernice Makin, Flower Arranger

2:00 **Fall in the Garden**
Jeff Myers, Education Specialist, PHS

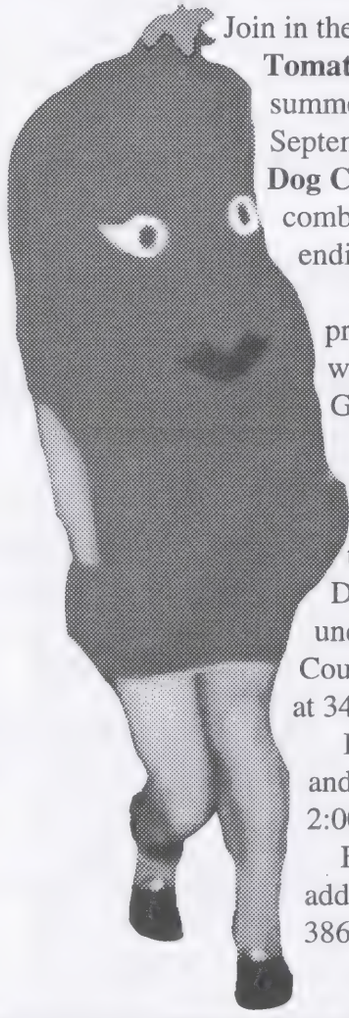
3:00 **Pepper Strings**
Andrew "Gus" Jardel, '94 Blue ribbon winner, Dried Pepper Strings

Harvest Show Workshop

Join Philadelphia Green and Penn State's Urban Gardening Program to get your garden ready for the Harvest Show. Learn everything about how to prepare flowers, vegetables, herbs and preserved products to win top prizes at the Show.

when: **Monday, September 11, 5:30-7 pm**
where: **47th & Warrington Garden**

Dance of the Ripe Tomatoes



Join in the **Dance of the Ripe Tomatoes,** the last dance of the summer, Friday night, September 29, as the **White Dog Cafe** and **The Body Shop** combine to throw a season-ending bash.

For the third year, proceeds from the event will benefit Philadelphia Green.

A hearty buffet dinner features the harvest of the local family farms that supply the White Dog Cafe. Buffet is served under tent-top on Moravian Court, behind the White Dog at 3420 Sansom Street.

Buffet opens 6:30 pm, and dancing goes on til 2:00am. Cost is $35/person.

For reservations and additional information, call 386-9224.

Harvest Show Festivities

Come to the

Harvest Show Opening Celebration

Friday, September 15, 4-7 PM

&

Join us for a

Harvest Party

celebrating Community Gardening with
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Green Program

Saturday, Sept 16, 6-8:30 PM

Send Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to :

PHS/Flossie Narducci
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

Free Tickets to **Harvest Show Opening** and **Harvest Party**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: **Phone:**

☐ Please send 2 tickets for the **Harvest Show Opening Celebration** Friday, Sept 15, 4-7 PM

☐ Please send 5 tickets for the **Community Gardeners' Harvest Party** Saturday, Sept 16, 6-8:30 PM

Harvest Show

Be a part of the excitement that is generated each September at the Harvest Show. Experience the thrill of winning a ribbon by entering the best from your garden. Celebrate at the Harvest Party with good music, good food and good friends.

Feeling timid about entering something from your garden? Overcome your inhibitions and show off your gardening skills.

To enter, fill out and mail the this entry form. We'll send you entry tags and information about registration.

Harvest Show Entry Form

Mail to: Harvest Show Entries
PHS
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106-2777

To enter the Harvest Show call PHS at 625-8250 for an Exhibitor's Schedule.

Exhibitor _____

Street Address _____

City_____State_____Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____

Member of the Horticultural Society? ____ Yes ____ No
First-time Harvest Show Exhibitor? ____ Yes ____ No

Garden/Garden Club/Horticultural Organization _____

Name of local newspaper _____

Please check entry type(s)

____ Design
____Pressed Plants
____Preserved Product
____Baked Goods
____Horticulture
____High School
____Youth

Getting Ready for the Harvest Show

Moving Your Entry to the Show

- **Stake container plants** for extra support
- **Cut holes** in overturned cartons to fit pots.
- **A rod attached to the clothes-hanging fixture** in the car will support hanging baskets. Secure the rod or pole by sticking it between the window and the top of the car door; roll the window up as far as it will go to prevent slipping. To keep plant from swinging, attach it to a brick or cinderblock below the seat.
- **A bucket with a weight in the bottom** and stuffed with newspaper will also support a hanging basket during transport.

Here's How to Enter the Show

Bring your entries to the
Horticulture Center
Belmont Ave. & Horticultural Drive
West Fairmount Park.

Registration is:
Thursday, Sept 14, **3:30 - 7:00 PM**
Friday, Sept 15th, **7:30 - 10:00 AM**

- **A box stuffed with newspaper** is also ideal for moving canned goods
- **When bringing vegetables or fruit** for entry, pack each set of entries (such as 3 tomatoes plus extras) in a separate bag with their completed entry tag. Too much time spent sorting entries at the Show could mean missed deadlines.
- **Transport flowers in water** if possible to prevent wilting. Avoid spills by filling jars only half way and standing them up in a box or bucket packed loosely with newspaper. Don't leave them sitting in the car in the sun while you unload other things.
- **Put an old rug or blanket** down in the car under entries. It helps prevent sliding and keeps the car clean.
- **Seat belts can be helpful** in supporting plants or cartons while transporting them.
- If you have large or heavy entries, or a large number of entries, your own **dolly or wagon** is a great help in moving your stuff to and from the car, especially for Sunday evening removal from the Show.

How to Win the Harvest Sweepstakes

Want to make all this year's ribbons go a little further? Want to make each of your entries in the Show count for more? Each year Harvest Show officials tally up all the ribbons and prizes awarded to winning entries from each garden. **Community Gardens Sweepstakes Certificates** are presented to community gardens with the greatest number of ribbons **(blue, red, yellow or white)** throughout the Harvest Show. More points are given for the more difficult classes (such as Harvest Windows, Bounty Baskets, Floral Bounty, and Challenge Class,) so be sure to enter these catagories.

Gift Certificates for the the purchase of gardening supplies at Primex Garden Center in Glenside were presented to the winners last year.

These awards are listed each year on the blackboard on the night of the Harvest Party.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has another sweepstakes for the Harvest Show, and presents a separate certificate for the community garden with the most **blue** ribbons won.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Just down the street from East Germantown's Awbury Arboretum is a serene community garden at the corner of E. Walnut Lane and Chew Avenue. The garden is almost pie-shaped and is set at the end of the **500 block of E. Walnut Lane**. A grassy center is surrounded by borders filled with perennials, evergreens, flowering shrubs and trees.

The garden's previous life as a vacant lot lasted about 20 years. The ground was covered with asphalt and the site always looked awful. After **Jeff Hickso**. became block captain in 1993, the neighbors decided to get rid of this eyesore and replace it with a garden that would enhance their block.

Jeff and neighbors **Barbara Dawsonia**, **Marsha Budd**, and **Angie Littlepage** met with PG staff member **Kalyan Bhagratty** in the spring of 1994. Kalyan looked at the asphalt and suggested constructing raised beds on top of the pavement. When Jeff insisted they would remove the asphalt and create the garden of their dreams, Kalyan chose a planting date and kept her fingers crossed. Six men from the block started to work in mid-April, using heavy breaker bars and pick axes to pulverize and haul away the broken asphalt. Jeff arranged for the services of a Department of Licenses and Inspections dump truck to get rid of the debris. The work crew finished in three weeks, just before the date set for planting.

Jeff and the rest of his gardening quartet spent last summer watering the garden twice a day to help the perennials, shrubs and trees get established. This year, the plants have adjusted and the gardeners water just once a day on this sunny hot spot. Jeff fills the 55 gallon drum full of water each evening from the fire hydrant just outside the fence. Barbara goes up to the garden each morning at 5:00 to dip her watering can into the drum and water the plants.

They get a kick out of the people who drive by honking their approval over the garden or who stop and admire the flowers as they get off the bus.

This is Jeff's first experience with gardening. If someone told him a few years ago that he'd be gardening, he'd never have believed them. Jeff says, "Sometimes when I'm in there, I get lost." His advice to new community gardeners is to be ready for a lot of hard work. "This kind of gardening is very rewarding. You work together, with lots of effort and determination, and you can see the fruits of your labor." Jeff reaped other rewards at last year's annual block party when the block club surprised him by dedicating the garden as "Jeff's Garden," recognizing the competent leadership he provided in making such a wonderful garden.

Patricia Schrieber,
Education Manager

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
September 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 17 • No. 8 • October 1995

Seniors Enjoy Walking Course

by Lauri Brunton, Parks Volunteer

For years the senior center at **Vernon Park** has been full of bustling activity: learning, lunching and socializing in an environment where arts and crafts, Yoga, Tai-Chi and Line Dancing are all in a day's motion. And, although the seniors at the center had traveled to other sites for walking, bowling, and even intergenerational oral history in public schools, the seniors had yet to journey to the center's own front yard, Vernon Park.

Last spring, however, a major shift took place. In a joint effort, **Philadelphia Green and The Center in the Park** pulled exercise equipment designed for a walking course out of storage. They installed it in front of the center, on the grounds of Vernon Park. Center Director **Rennie Cohen** felt that "the park was in need of positive activity, and the walking course provides just that."

Mary Strode, the director of health and fitness, told us just how important the expansion of the center into the out-of-doors is for the park as well as for the seniors. The trial period for use of the course last spring prompted people to say "eight weeks was too short". The overall response from the seniors to being out in the park and using such a high quality walking course with a knowledgeable instructor was overwhelmingly positive. The first day of class last spring brought out 39 people. The course, which works on cardiovascular training, strength, agility, and balance, was designed for individual pacing and usage. But with Mary Strode as teacher, use of the structured walking course as a class is resuming this fall.

We look for better fitness in coming years for all concerned: seniors, neighbors, and the Park itself.

Friends in Need

*reprinted from the **PHS News***

After an eight-alarm fire leveled PHS volunteer **Marc Zaharchuk**'s home last year, his fellow Azalea Garden friends rallied 'round. In the days after the disaster, they presented him with an IOU to help re-establish his garden. "I thought a few people would stop over to help out." Zaharchuk said. " I figured we'd just get a few hoagies to feed folks."

Twenty-five people showed up for the workday. They mulched, weeded, trimmed shrubs, and built flower beds. Nobody had to worry about hoagies, either. "These people brought a feast," Zaharchuk recalled. "Casserole dishes, watermelons, big chiffon things..." With friends like these, hearts were warmed, stomachs were filled, and a new garden grew up from the ashes of the old one.

If you would like to join this group of friends to work in the **Azalea Garden**, contact Flossie Narducci at 215-625-8280.

For beautiful bulbs next spring, do the work now! For information about how, see inside.

Grow With Us!

Clippings

1st Tomato Winner

Maye Clement, East Oak Lane resident and a member of the **Fruitberry Rose Community Garden** at **19th & Cambria**, won 1st prize in the "First Vine-Ripened Tomato" contest, sponsored by the **Neighborhood Gardens Association** (NGA).

2nd Prize was shared by **Alta Felton** and daughter **Rosetta Little**, both of the **Garden of Eatin'** at **25th & Dickenson** in South Philly.

Sea Change Tree & Harvest Sale

Music, food and bargains will mark the dedication of the **Sea Change Urban Horticulture Center** on **Saturday, October the 14th.** Stock up on colorful mums, ornamental kale and cabbage, pansies and bulbs, as well as trees and shrubs grown by the **Temple University Native Plant Propagation Center**. For even better prices, call for a pre-order form at 978-5930.

when: Saturday, October 14
10:00 - 3:00
where: Oxford & Carlisle Streets

Youth Grant Available

Applications for the **National Gardening Association's 13th annual Youth Garden Grants Program** are now available. The 300 grants, worth over $500 each, will be awarded nationally for the 1996 growing season. Eligible programs must have at least 15 children ages 3-18 enrolled. Consideration is given to educational, social or environmental programming; sustainability; community support; strong leadership; need; and innovation.

To receive an application, write to Garden Grants Dept. PS, National Gardening Association, 180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401; telephone 1-800-538-7476. Please include name, school or organization, address and phone number in your request.

Deadline is **November 15, 1995.**

Bringing in the Houseplants

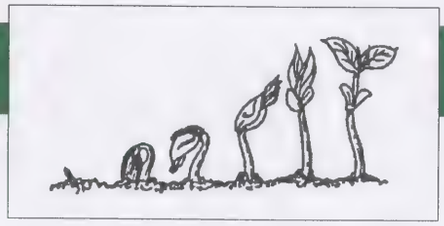
Here's some advice about bringing in houseplants from **Ronnie Whiten,** (our favorite houseplant expert) who gardens on **North 33rd St.** in **Strawberry Mansion Green Countrie Towne**: "Check leaves carefully, especially the undersides, for aphids and mealybugs. Wash them off with soap and water, then with alcohol on a cotton swab if needed. Caterpillars and bigger bugs can be picked off by hand, or, if you're squeamish, knocked off into a cup of water and disposed of.

"If you need to pull out the big guns for more difficult pest problems, dip or spray plants carefully while they're still outside, and leave them for a few days to air out before moving them in. Repeat the treatment if necessary, still giving enough time for plants to air out. Back porches work very well for this.

"Start the process of clean-up and inspection by the beginning of October. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system. Of course, my house never gets warm enough to stress my plants.

"Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, radiators and marauding cats. Feed them lightly with a liquid fertilizer to give them something to work on in their new surroundings. But don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants, as well as gardeners, have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter."

What's Coming Up in October



Spring Reward

Flowers grown from bulbs reward us with a splash of spring color almost before anything else happens in the garden. They can be grown in very small places and with very little care

For bulbs to bloom in the spring, they must be planted in the previous fall. This allows time for roots to form while the weather is still mild in the fall and early winter. Bulbs can be planted as long as the ground isn't frozen.

SOIL: Most bulbs are left in the ground to bloom for many years without any attention, so what you do to the soil now is the most important part of planting bulbs. Dig in plenty of natural fertilizers like bone meal, wood ashes, well-rotted manure, leaf mold, and compost.

LAY OUT all the bulbs on top of the soil before planting, whether you're planting lots of them or only a few. This will give you an idea of how big an area to prepare for the amount you have.

DIG OUT THE SOIL to the necessary depth, and mix in plenty of bone meal and compost and whatever else you are adding to the soil to condition it. Carefully set the bulbs POINT SIDE UP at the bottom of the hole. Then fill the hole with the enriched soil, adding the smaller bulbs at the correct soil depth.

HOW DEEP? The first rule is to plant bulbs at least three times as deep as they are wide. This means that larger bulbs like daffodils and tulips are planted with the base of the bulb at six inches deep. Smaller bulbs like crocuses need only be three inches deep.

HOW CLOSE? Plant tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths about three inches apart, and crocuses a little closer. Plant in groups of three or more of a kind or color.

REMEMBER: Any work you do this fall will be paid back a hundredfold next spring, when you'll be suddenly greeted with that welcome splash of color at the end of a dreary winter.

What to Plant in October

From seed or bulbs

- lettuce
- daffodils & narcissus
- radishes
- tulips

DIVIDE

- daylilies
- peonies
- phlox

Now About Those Green Tomatoes

After the frost, take them off the plants and save only the perfect ones. Wash them with water with a few drops of Chlorine bleach, and put them somewhere in the dark, where the temperature holds steady at about 40° (an unheated cellar or attic is fine.) Some people prefer to wrap each one in tissue paper or newsprint, and others add a ripe apple to the batch to promote ripening. Check them every week or so for critters, and remove any fruit that have begun to rot, since these are a bad influence on the others. Burpee Longkeeper variety tomatoes have been known to last into January and still taste better than store-bought.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

I'd like to tell you about a group of dedicated gardeners at **Villanueva**, a new housing complex built by **Women's Community Revitalization Project** in **Fairhill,** under the guidance of **Nora Lichtash,** WCRP's Executive Director**.** Our evening workshop on Summer Garden Care included a walking tour of the complex's two courtyards where we visited the beautiful back gardens that were highly praised by the City Gardens Contest judges.

Liz Hale has adopted a raised bed just outside her back fence, and filled it with a mix of annuals, highlighted by bright pink petunias. She was surprised to hear that the one weed she hadn't pulled out was plantain, which is often used to heal rashes and poison ivy. Liz laughed and said that she must have had a sixth sense about its value. Other gardeners, who carefully weeded out theirs, will have to go to Liz for leaves to cure their skin ailments.

Like Liz, **Jackie Dempsey** has just started gardening and is really hooked. She tends a flower garden that looks like a Persian carpet in the shade of a flowering tree lilac. Deep red cockscomb make a great impact, along with dark magenta four o'clocks given to Jackie by a neighbor.

Hector Matias had clear visions of how his garden should look. At first, he had only a concrete patio at his back door so he built a picket fence to enclose a space beyond the back fence. Colorful annuals edge the small stone pond he built there. Hector plans to put a fish fountain at the top, finishing off a beautiful display. He's going to extend his garden to the edge of the courtyard, adopting a tree in the process. Who knows where Hector's gardening will lead him next.

Maggie Maldonado is an exuberant gardener who has branched out beyond houseplants. Her garden wraps around the patio at her back door. It's filled with a lush collection of annuals and perennials. Her next door neighbor **Yolanda** has created a mirror image so that the two gardens seem as one. Everyone admires Maggie's Black-Eyed Susans and 'Moonbeam' Coreopsis and are looking forward to learning how to divide and transplant perennials this fall so they can plant some in their own gardens.

Shortie Ascensio added a special touch to her garden by turning a wooden barrel on its side with flowers spilling out of it as they grow into the garden. She arranged swirls of white pebbles to give the effect of running water.

Rosario Henshaw, Villanueva's Tenant Coordinator, beams when she looks around the gardens nurtured by these enthusiastic gardeners. She sees each flourishing garden contributing to the beauty of the whole community.

Patricia Schrieber
Education Manager

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

October 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 17 • No. 9 • November 1995

PURP Grants Promote New & Improved Greening

Thanks to grants from the **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership (PURP)**, many new groups in the city will start greening projects this fall. Several more will also make improvements to existing projects.

Most important to Philadelphia Green are the grants for **Garden Cultivators** and for **Sustaining the Urban Forest.**

The Garden Cultivators project is broken into two parts. **Greene Countrie Towne Improvement Grants** provide matching funds for existing groups in GCTs that want to improve their gardens.

Garden Tenders, on the other hand, is for new groups outside areas targeted for funding. Because they are in communities where monies have not recently been available for garden development recently, many of these groups have been waiting for a very long time. This grant provides resources to develop gardens in these neighborhoods.

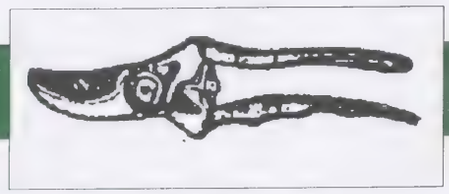
Garden Tenders (modeled after the very successful Tree Tenders) is a training program for self-starters. Participating groups research property ownership, obtain written permission to use the lots, do site and group resource evaluations, and design their gardens. Three members of each group must attend two three-hour training sessions and one work-day to qualify for tools and materials.

The first round of training took place in Germantown, where ten very enthusiastic neighborhood groups traded challenges and success stories("We better slow down--our garden will be done before the work day happens!"), shared resources ("Here's the number for the man who has the wall-washing equipment to remove graffiti"), and promised to help one another. At the first meeting in September, many of the neighbors found out just how small the world is -- most of the new gardens are within a few blocks of each other!

Special congratulations to the first Garden Tender Graduate Groups: **5640 Boyer St., 5900 Chew Ave., Duval Improvement Association, 37-39 E. Herman St., 500 Block E. Herman St.** (at Chew), **233 E. Hortter St., 320-332 E. Mechanic St., 5700 block Morton St.** (at Price), **500 Block E. Walnut Lane** (at Belfield), and **4600 Pulaski Ave.**

Federal agencies sponsoring the Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership include the **National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fish and Wildlife Service,** and the **Forest Service.**

To learn more about the PURP Grants, especially **Sustaining the Urban Forest**, see *Clippings* on the next page.



Clippings

PURP Grants

Sustaining the Urban Forest

In spite of the success of citizen-based tree plantings, there is usually very little money or technical help available to maintain the trees when they start to get too large to prune from the ground. This funding will provide Philadelphia Green with the opportunity to set up educational programs, technical and financial support, and service networks that will enable community groups to actively participate in the management of these maturing trees.

Movers & Shakers

Congratulations to other groups receiving grants, and to all the people involved in the organizing:

Carousel House Garden for the Disabled will expand their existing garden, improve accessibility for challenged gardeners, resurface paths, and install raised beds, handrails, and braille tiles. (Organized by **Stuart Greenberg**.)

Point Breeze Beautification/Conservation Project will develop and maintain 15 new community gardens, plant new street trees, and promote cleaning and greening efforts. (**Mamie Nichols**)

Inner City Nature Trail, Kensington South NAC. The Trail will include an inventory of existing trees, new street trees, a children's tree farm of native Pennsylvania trees, a Shakespearean Garden, and a Butterfly Garden at the local playground. (**Tom Lederer**)

Green Neighborhood Network, Project HOME will transform six vacant lots into an art park/tot lot, Memorial park, flower garden, sitting garden, and herb and vegetable garden to supply the Back Home Cafe, an eatery and catering service operated by formerly homeless persons. (**Susan Horan**)

Baltimore Avenue in Bloom, Spruce Hill Community Association and others. A collaboration of six community organizations working to extend, tend, and interpret a coordinated planting along Baltimore Avenue and its associated green spaces, including community gardens, schools, and a perennial plant nursery. (**Lauren Leatherbarrow**)

Garden Improvements, Penn State Urban Gardening Program. Provides mini-grants for improvements to community food gardens at least five years old. (**Terry Mushovic**)

Johnnie Tillmon Community Garden. TheWomen's Community Revitalization Project will design and construct a garden in conjunction with 62 units of rental housing and a child development center. (**Carmen Marrero**)

Food For Thought. House of Umoja willdevelop a food garden on eight vacant lots, for the emergency food distribution program and for local residents. (**Nasser Fattah**)

Environmental Laboratories for Community Improvement, West Philadelphia Partnership, for creating working gardens and tree plantings to be used as part of an environmental education program. (**Lawrence Bell**)

Proyecto El Parque, Impact Services, for a tree planting project and a neighborhood park. (**Phyllis Martino**)

Family Learning Center, Black Lutheran CDC, for a children's garden with the after school and summer programs. (**Gail E. Wright-Palmer**)

What's Coming Up in November

Clean Habits

Even though most people consider fall to be the end of the growing season, it's still a very busy time in the garden. Remember, the more preparation you do this fall, the easier life will be next spring.

Clean Up

After first frost, clean up dead plants & weeds; cut back perennials. Eliminate any diseased perennials. Rake up lawns and compost the sweepings.

Prune

Prune trees and shrubs drop their leaves; this means they are dormant and won't be shocked. Inspect trees and shrubs for dead, diseased or damaged wood. Remove overcrowded and crossing branches.

Fertilize

Work fertilizer and organic matter into the soil before the ground freezes. Melting snow and spring rains will disperse these nutrients to plant roots as they wake next season.

Plant

Bulbs and perennials planted in the fall will brighten any garden come spring. Lawns, trees and shrubs should also be planted in early fall so that before the ground freezes they can develop root systems to prepare them for summer's hardships. A lawn started in September will be thick and lush next April and May.

Mulch

Winter mulch is used to protect tender plant roots from "heaving." Heaving is what happens when soil freezes and expands, then thaws and shrinks back, then freezes, then thaws and on and on. This constant changing "heaves" the plant roots right up out of the soil, leaving them unprotected from unfriendly weather. Mulching with shredded tree branches, pine boughs, wood chips or store-bought mulches will insulate plants and their roots duing the winter, and can be dug in or raked away and composted in the spring.

Plan

It's never too early to start planning for next year's garden. What worked this year, and what should you do differently next time? After the cleaning, feeding and digging are done, and winter's wind and cold have driven you indoors, the seed catalogs will start to arrive in the mail. And since you've already done all of the preparation work, all that's left to do is to order new seed and plants and sit back and dream.

Summer-Flowering Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by the first frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that -- 40° to 45°-- to prevent them from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The Harvest Show is just like a family reunion. Gardening mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles and cousins converge on the Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park for a long weekend every September. We share our love of gardening, what's happened since we last saw one another, and who grew what (and how well) over the summer months.

My view of this year's family gathering started in the registration tent Thursday afternoon. Everyone was buzzing with excitement. PHS staff and **State's Urban Gardening** worked with Show volunteers to make sure each entry was in good condition and had the right name and number of specimens. **Mary Myers**, the vice-chair of roses, gave special attention to **Vince C.**, a first-time exhibitor, guiding him through the ins and outs of showing roses. **Delmer** and **Beverly Gill** were thrilled over their many entries. They were convinced it was the compost they worked into the soil and the mulch they used that brought their crops successfully through the drought. **John** and **Ann Swan** shared their recipe for saving tomato seeds: let them ferment well in a glass of water before rinsing the seeds to remove germination inhibitors. **Stephen Maciejewski** said that his many cut branches were from "the largest private garden in Center City," created when he and his neighbors combined their back yards. **Gloria Summers,** who had pulled her back out, was going home Thursday night to take a hot bath and sip a cup of herb tea while she finished filling out her entry tags. **Naomi Adams** came to case things out Thursday night and returned Friday morning with herbs and vegetables to enter. She proudly showed me a recent Daily News article describing her beautiful West Philadelphia community garden. **Cathi D.** carried in car loads of entries. This hard core exhibitor took herself out of her brother-in-law's wedding because the show was too important to miss. After we closed registration on Friday, I ran into **Marjorie Thornton** who had entered collard greens. She was full of stories about her neighborhood which she recounted as we sat under a dawn redwood tree. With bags barely unpacked from a two-week trip to the Women's Conference in China, **Willie Mae Bullock** was ready to enjoy the show and catch up with old friends. **David Wierdsma's** first visit to the show in 1994 impressed him so much that he traveled from his home in Greenwich CT to volunteer this year. After only two days, he was already part of the family. That's just the way it is at the Harvest Show.

Patricia Schrieber, Outreach Manager

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
November 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 17 • No. 10 • December 1995

Andropogon Wins Award for 26th Street Gateway

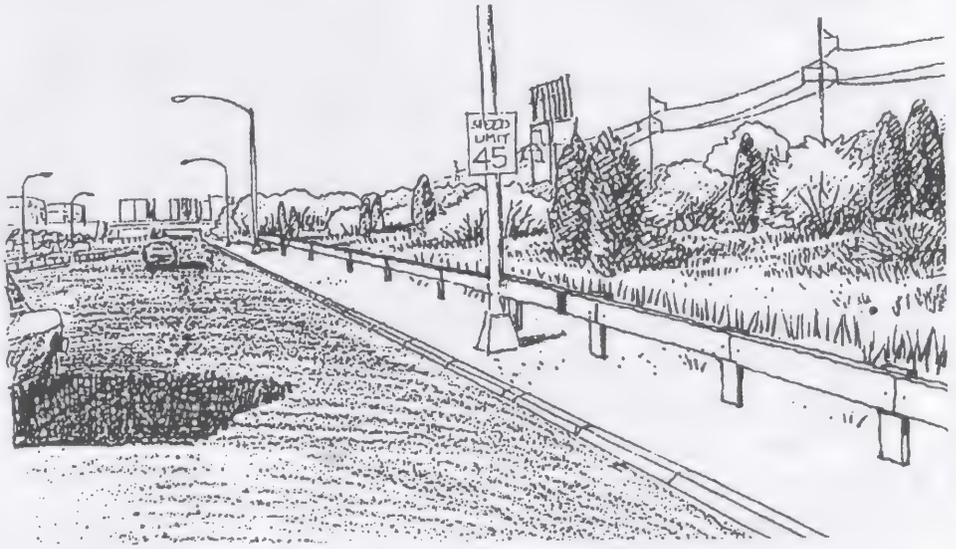
Andropogon Associates, Ltd., a Philadelphia-based architecture and landscape architecture firm, recently won a 1995 Award for Design Excellence given by the American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter. The award was given for the firm's work on the **26th Street Gateway Project.**

Eleven projects throughout Philadelphia received the AIA award for their achievement in planning, design, architecture and herald new visions and realities. Member organizations submitted their work, which included all project types — buildings, renovations, preservation, urban design and more.

The 26th Street Gateway, a project of the Philadelphia Green program, revitalized the land along 26th Street from the Platt Bridge to the Schuylkill Expressway. Industrial wasteland, trash, abandoned vehicles, billboards, and crumbling asphalt bordered the road, which is a one-mile, 25-acre stretch between the Philadelphia International Airport and the city.

"As one who has made many, many trips from the airport to downtown Philadelphia, this is one of the most welcoming things I have seen, one that long needed such attention," said juror **Thomas Ventulett III,** of **Thompson Ventulett Stainbach & Associates** in Atlanta, GA. "It's a marvelous transformation."

With funding from various sources-- including the **Sun Company** and **CONRAIL**, both of which own property along the gateway-- Philadelphia Green sought to revitalize this area beginning in 1988. Andropogon Associates was hired to develop a plan for rehabilitating the Gateway. Since the project began, large sections of derelict land have been transformed into landscapes of native grasses, wildflowers, crabapple trees, viburnums and eastern red cedars.



"Thousands of visitors to the city get their first impressions from this stretch of road," says **J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.**, vice president, programs for the Society. "The award is a testament to the hard work and dedication that has gone into this project and to the support of many generous organizations."

Partners in the 26th Street Gateway Project include **CONRAIL, Sun Company, the Philadelphia Department of Streets, Philadelphia Outdoor Advertising, PennDOT, PECO Energy,** and **Boeing Company.**

Andropogon Associates, with extensive experience in the restoration and management of landscapes, works on many other Greater Philadelphia area landscape projects including the Center City District Streetscape, Independence National Historical Park, and the Schuylkill River Westbank Greenway.

Grow With Us!

Clippings

Butterfly Gardens *by Laurie Brunton*

This past summer the children in **Wharton Square's** summer program had two mornings a week to experience creating a butterfly garden. Headed by **Mark Teller** of Philadelphia Green, the usual summer program was supplemented with a hands-on approach to environmental education. The children planted Asclepias, Echinacea, Solidago, Buddleia and other butterfly-attracting flowers. They learned the importance of caring for a garden, watering, weeding and mulching during a record-breaking hot summer.

Games designed to enrich a knowledge and appreciation of the complex world of plants and animals enhanced the gardening program, and winners were given beautiful butterfly garden books. Diplomas and Certificates of Recognition were awarded for Outstanding Gardeners to all participants at summer's end.

"Rebulú"- A Festival at Norris Square

4 November 1995 was a very special day for our community. We celebrated the dedication of the new passive sitting and games area in Norris Square together.
It was time for a festival for our people, with music, games and dancing.

We cleaned the park in the morning and then ..... celebrated!!

For informaton contact:
Norris Square Neighborhood Project at 426 4631

PHS Has a Home Page!

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society now has a home on the Internet. Members and friends can bring the latest full-color information on the 1996 Flower Show into their homes using their computer, modem, and any online service.

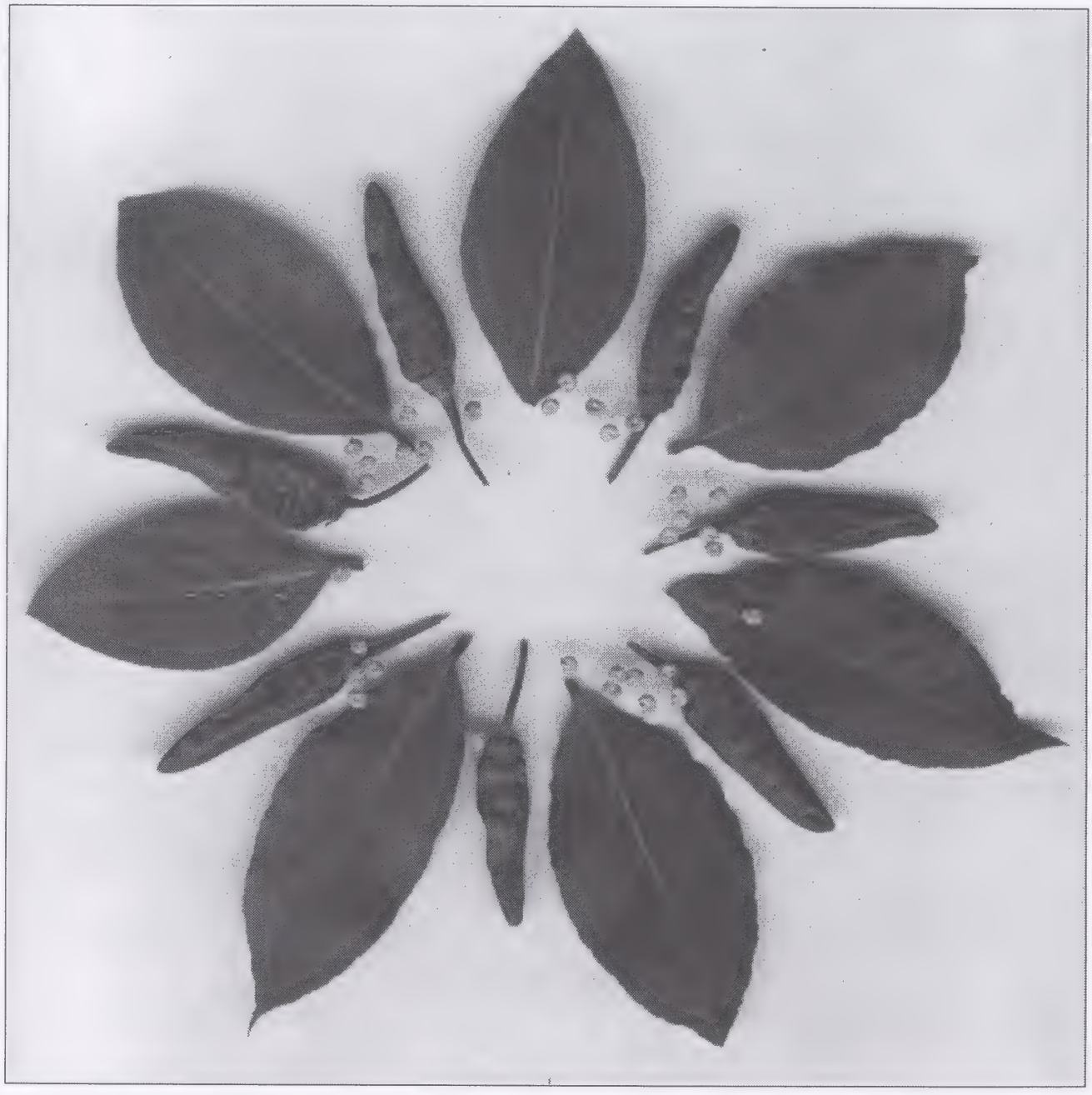
Enter **http://www.libertynet.org/~phs** into your web brouser to reach the PHS home page. Visitors to the website will also be able to download video files, discover details about Philadelphia Green, and link to other garden-related websites.

Alta Felton & Frank Kieser Honored

The PHS Awards Committee recently granted **Certificates of Merit** to two local community gardeners.

Alta Felton has been an important figure in the Point Breeze gardening community for many years. From her involvement with Louise Bush-Brown's windowbox gardens in the 1950's to her supervision of three generations of her own family and the entire **"Garden of Eatin'" at 25th & Dickinson**, her name has become synonymous with gardening. Mrs. Felton has served as an advisor to Penn State's Urban Gardening Program for many years and was recognized as "the Grandmama of Gardening Angels" at the Urban Gardening awards ceremony in 1994.

Frank Kieser began digging in the dirt in several community gardens in West Philadelphia in the late 70s. Frank has served on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board, co-chaired the Community Gardeners' section of the Society's Harvest Show from 1984-87 and served on the Philadelphia Green Flower Show Committee, volunteering many hours to the planning and staging of the PG exhibit, and to PG activities related to the care and propagation of herbs.



SEASONINGS GREETINGS

from

Philadelphia Green

1995 City Gardens Contest Winners

Community Children's Gardens

3rd Seedy Acre Kids
Sally McCabe & kids

1347 South 32nd Street
Alice Riley & kids

2nd Project Rainbow
Sister Diana Cerchio & kids
413 West Master Street

16th & South Streets
Tanya Cox & kids

6th & Carpenter Streets
Fran Palladinette & kids

1st The Caring Center
Barbara Powell & kids
3101 Spring Garden Street

Pastorius Ecology Lab
Gloria Summers & kids

Rainbow Park for Wee Green Thumbs
Sister Grace West & kids

Tree Labs

3rd Meade Elementary School
Ellen Lube & kids
18th & Oxford Streets

Bookworms Afterschool Program
Michele Ryan, Arty Cholminski & kids
625 S. 16th Street

2nd Kensington High School
Kevin Santry & kids
Amber & Cumberland

Brown School
Michael Weiss & kids
Stanwood & Frankford

1st Harding Middle School
Carol Vanagaitis & kids
Torresdale & Wakeling Streets

Vare Middle School
Larry Stier & Kids

1st Year Community Gardens

3rd 1620 West Reed Street
Murphy Johnson & neighbors

2nd 16th & Kater Street
Michelle Ryan & neighbors

1st 1733 North Gratz Street
Geraldine & Glenn Pace & neighbors

2421 West Sergeant Street
Donald Fleming & neighbors

Shady Lanes

3rd 2900 Block of North 3rd Street
Eleuterio Lope & neighbors

2nd 2800 Block of North Reese Street
Miriam Vega & neighbors

700 Block of South Warnock Street
Ron Kanter & neighbors

1st 700 Block of South 18th Street
Thelma Henderson & neighbors

Mini Parks

3rd 1846-52 North 7th Street
Ralph Ries & neighbors

2nd 2547-53 North Franklin Street
Luz & Luis DeJesus & neighbors

2961-69 North Fairhill Street
Naomi Rodriquez & neighbors

1st 1619-21 North 7th Street
Ricardo Delgado & neighbors

Gardens at Community Development Sites

3rd Villa Nueva I
Rosa Henshaw & neighbors
WCRP - 333 West Girard Avenue

2nd Villa Nueva II
Rosa Henshaw & neighbors
WCRP - 333 West Girard Avenue

1st Sarah Allen Homes
Rasheeda Hyman & neighbors
SRO - 4040 Ogden Street

Community Combination Gardens - Small

3rd 1523-25 North & Sydenham Streets
Barbara Wolf & neighbors

3304 North 15th Street
Charlotte Grant & neighbors

2nd 2656-58 North 8th Street
Mamie Dawson

Salford & Arch Streets
Madeline Williams & neighbors

1st 4641 Westminster Avenue
Jean Reed & neighbors

Community Combination Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd 16th & South Streets
Robert Waller & neighbors

15th & Butler Streets
Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors

2nd 1823-29 East Oakdale Street
Simpson, Berrigan and Appel

4939-53 Stiles Street
Genita Millhouse & neighbors

1st & PNC Award
1033-37 South 6th Street
Alexia Chororos & neighbors

Community Combination Garden-Large

3rd Las Parcelas
2229-58 North Palethorpe Street
Iris Brown & neighbors

Garden of Eatin'
25th & Dickinson Streets
Alta Felton & neighbors

2nd 25th & Spruce Streets
Frank Lyons & neighbors

Powelton & Wiota Streets
John Lindsay & neighbors

Aspen Farms
Hayward Ford & neighbors

1505-11 North 7th Street
Carmen Delgado & neighbors

Sun Circle Garden
Mildred Peterkin & neighbors

Unitarian Universalist House
Hank Penning, George Craddock
& residents
224 W. Tulpehocken Street

1st 1410 North Hancock Street
Nick Giordano & neighbors

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE 1996 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 1996 Philadelphia Flower Show will be in full bloom at a brand new location. From February 25 to March 3, the world's largest and most prestigious indoor flower show will fill 10 acres of the Pennsylvania Convention Center with the flowers and fragrance of spring in "This Land Is Your Land.....Philadelphia In Flower." Join us as a volunteer and help roll out the red carpet for our Flower Show visitors. You can help PHS, be part of the behind-the scenes activity, and have fun as well. If you would like to volunteer, please check the jobs that interest you.

- ☐ **Show Information** - Answer questions from visitors in the Show Information Booth
- ☐ **Horticourt Information** -Share your horticultural expertise by answering questions of the Show visitors.
- ☐ **Membership & Sales Booth** - Members only. Sell PHS memberships, Flower Show souvenirs. Involves standing and walking in a fast-paced sales area.
- ☐ **Garden Shop** - Sell floral/gardening gifts and Flower Show souvenirs. Involves standing and walking in a fast-paced area.
- ☐ **Concourse Volunteers** - Greet and direct visitors from street level to exhibits, restrooms, ticket booths, etc. Involves standing and walking.
- ☐ **Hospitality Aides -** Early morning duties include serving coffee, tea to exhibitors.
- ☐ **Cookbook Nook** - Sell PHS cookbooks

Please complete this form and return to Flossie Narducci at PHS by **December 15**.
We will contact you with further information.

Name_____Phone (day)_____(eve)_____

Address_____

_____State_____ZIP_____

Are you a PHS member?_____

Volunteer Opportunities at the 1996 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

February 25 - March 3

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Attention: F. Narducci

Community Flower Gardens - Small

3rd Sarah Lawson & neighbors
2032 Pemberton Street

1700 North Newkirk Street
Daisy Singletary & neighbors

2nd Stillman & Parrish Streets
Jane Gourley & neighbors

2200 Race Street
Joyce & Arlene Dascola & neighbors

314 Emily Street
Alice Murray & neighbors

1st Bailey & Parrish Streets
John Gourley & neighbors

Community Flower Gardens - Mid-Size

3rd 1730 Ellsworth Street
Learlie Blount & neighbors

1120 South 23rd Street
Wendy Solomon & Cecelia Kelly
& neighbors

2nd 20th & Kater Streets
Marian Kornilowicz & neighbors

1st 5437-39 Addison Street
Ruby Grant & neighbors

Schuylkill Falls Library
Sallie Maser

Community Flower Gardens - Large

3rd 1505-07 Montrose Street
Marian Barnes & neighbors

2nd El Batey
Iris Brown & neighbors

5031 Race Street
Paul Schantz

Unitarian Universalist House
Hank Penning, George Craddock
& residents
224 West Tulpehocken Street

1st 2143-47 North 19th Street
Alice Robertson & neighbors

2146-48 North 27th Street
Clannie Berrian, Sarah Small
& neighbors

1st Year Garden & Greenest Blocks

3rd 2900 Block of North 4th Street
Deborah Hearst & neighbors

Morton Home Seniors
5800 Block of Banton Street
Beatrice Gay & neighbors

2nd 1700 Block of West French Street
Elizabeth Morton & neighbors

2800 Block Of North Reese Street
Rose Marie Cintron & neighbors

5300 Block of Alfred Street
Joyce Battle & neighbors

1st 3200 North Etting Street
Patricia Branch & neighbors

300 Block of West Penn Street
Corliss Gray & neighbors

P.G. Garden Blocks

3rd 5000 Block of Ludlow Street
Daisy Ree Gervin & neighbors

2nd North Unit Block of Dewey Street
Connie Stevens, Connie Nelson
& neighbors

1st 3700 Block of North 15th Street
Minnie Radcliffe & neighbors

Greenest Block in Town

3rd 1700 Block of West Edgley Street
Dollie Pickney & neighbors

2nd 6100 Block of Washington Avenue
Laura Sims & neighbors

6200 Block of Ellsworth Street
John Steptoe & neighbors

1st 3500 Block of North 24th Street
Mr. & Mrs. Obediah Foster,
Bernie McKnight & neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens -Small

3rd 1925-35 West Venango Street
Harold Smith & neighbors

1202-13 South 26th Street
Cynthia Anderson & neighbors

2nd 28th & Cambria Streets
Annie Hyman & neighbors

818 East Haines Street
Gloria Summers & neighbors

1st 5836 Wakefield Street
Lorenzo Higgins & Gladys Edwards
& neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens-Mid-Size

3rd Ogden & 43rd Street
The Southerners,
Josephine Speights & neighbors

2nd 44th & Parrish Streets
Jessie Carter & neighbors

1st 12 South 43rd Street
Naomi Adams & neighbors

Community Vegetable Gardens -Large

3rd 18th & Glenwood Avenue
James Taylor & neighbors

Village of Arts & Humanities
Heidi Warren & neighbors

2nd 3rd & Christian Streets
Yvonne Howard & neighbors

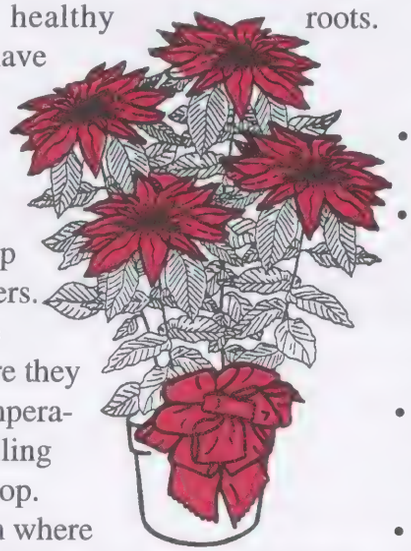
1st Johnson Homes
Gretta Fleming & neighbors

Holiday Horticulture

Success With Poinsettias

Directions from the Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch

- Select plants with green foliage all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indica- tion that the plants have active, healthy roots.
- Look for plants that have small green buttons (cyanthia) in the center of the colored bracts. These buttons will eventually develop into little yellow flowers.
- When transporting the plants home, make sure they are protected from tempera- tures below 50°F. Chilling causes the leaves to drop.
- Place plants in a room where there is sufficient natural light toread fine print. You should be able to observe a strong shadow with your hand.



- Water plants thoroughly when you get them home. The entire soil area should be saturated so that water seeps through the drain hole. Remember to discard excess water—never allow poinsettias to sit in water.
- Check plants daily—water when soil feels dry to the touch.
- Fertilize plants soon after bringing them home. They are without nutrients through the whole marketing process and will be pretty hungry. Use fertilizer according to the directions on the label.
- If you keep curtains drawn during the day to conserve heat, remember that poinsettias need at least six hours of bright indirect light daily.
- Keep plants away from drafts, radiators and hot air registers.
- To prolong the bright colors, keep the tempera- ture below 72° in the day and 60° at night.

Keeping Your Christmas Tree Happy

With that time of year almost here, many people will soon be buying Xmas trees. But how do you know if you're getting a good one?

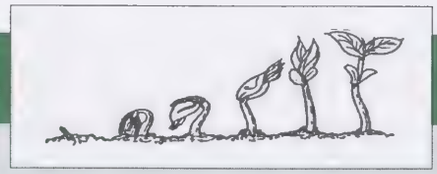
Try the "bounce" test. Take the tree by the trunk and bounce the base of the tree once on the ground—is the ground covered with needles? If it is, this isn't the tree for you.

Once you've picked the perfect tree for your family, here's how to keep it that way:

- Keep it as cool as possible, preferably outside, until you get it in the house.
- As soon as you get it in the house, make sure it's always in a couple of inches of water. Cut an inch off the base of the trunk so that a fresh section of stem is sitting in the water.
- A simple formula for keeping the tree fresh can be made from household items: add 1/4 cup Clorox, a tablespoon of liquid plant fertilizer, and 1/2 cup corn syrup (Karo) to a gallon of warm water. Use this to water the tree as the level in the dish or tree stand drops. The corn syrup and fertilizer feed the tree, and the Clorox keeps bacteria or germs from growing in the water.
- Don't keep the tree in the house for more than ten days. After that, they dry out no matter what you feed them, and can become a fire hazard.

After the holidays are over, save your tree for use in the garden. Needles make a great mulch for acid-loving plants like azaleas, hollies and rhododendrons. Save the branches to protect early spring crops from hungry birds. If you know someone with a chipper, the whole tree could be turned into woodchips to mulch the garden.

What's Coming Up in December



December	2 & 3	10 AM-4 PM Bartram's Garden Greens Sale & Children's Workshop (see below)
	17	Hanukkah starts at sunset (eight days)
	21	First day of WINTER
	24	PG OFFICE CLOSED
	25	PG OFFICE CLOSED Christmas
	26	Kwanzaa starts (eight days)
	25-29	PG OFFICE CLOSED
January	1	PG OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!!!

Bartram's Garden Holiday Greens & Poinsettia Sale Adults and kids are welcome to the house & garden tours and colonial cooking demonstrations. Fresh loose greens, wreaths, swags and decorations for sale. Dec. 2&3, 10-4. Bartram's Garden, 54th & Lindbergh (#36 Trolley). For info, call 729-5281.

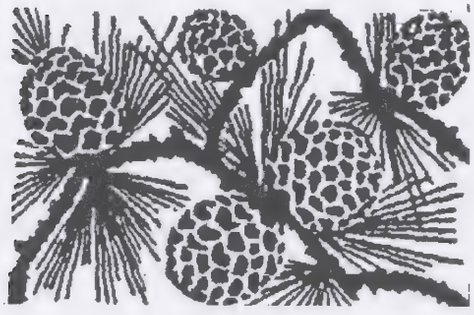
Cultivating Kids

MAKING HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

Nature offers plenty of free material to use in making holiday decorations. Leaves, dried weeds, pine cones, and evergreen branches are everywhere if you know to look for them. Dried gourds, dried beans, and branches of herbs that were brought in from the garden after cleanup can also be used.

All you need is a little imagination! Add a few things like cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter, ribbon and paper clips to nature's bounty, and put your youngsters to work.

Cartoon characters are an easy place to start. Cut out the shapes from paper or cardboard and glue on beans and seeds for decoration. Then move on to imaginary beasts with pinecone bodies, walnut heads, and beans for eyes.



Use pieces of ribbon to attach paper clip hangers. Hang your creations on the tree, on doors, or on windows.

Brighten up your house with them throughout the year, not just during the holidays.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

It happens every year as the days get shorter and the nights longer. I experience the familiar sensation of gardener's withdrawal. You know the symptoms: low energy, restlessness, a feeling that something is missing. I call it chlorophyll deprivation.

Remembering a gardening activity from the past season can be part of the cure. I close my eyes and see myself in our demonstration garden at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park last October. One of my co-workers, **Janet Carter**, who so ably cares for our garden, asked me to help her on Fall cleanup chores. She had also invited a trio of new Garden Tenders from Germantown who jumped at the chance of adopting a mugo pine that had outgrown its space in our garden.

Alfreda Mason, **Fran Butler** and **Daphine Croom** of the C& H Garden were waiting when we arrived at the garden. Although they had never dug up a shrub before, they were full of enthusiasm and energy. Freda, Fran and Daphine followed our instructions, using long handled shovels and nursery spades. They dug deeply to get the most roots. As they worked they talked about the large site they had adopted as their community garden. They laughed about all the work they had done the previous weekend in the pouring rain. They had already prepared the hole for the pine so they could replant it in their garden later that morning. They released the last root and pulled the shrub from the ground with a look of victory on their faces.

We showed them how to prune and Fran started removing any dead, diseased and damaged branches. She's the acknowledged garden expert of the group, having grown up on a farm in the South. Although Feda claims to be a city girl, she clearly has dirt-digging in her genes. When Daphine saw the wonderful clumps of lambs' ears that Janet was dividing, she knew she had to bring some back to their garden. Daphine learned how to divide up the mass of roots so the plant could be shared with her neighbors. When Fran was finished her excellent pruning job, the women picked up the pine and carried it to Frieda's station wagon. They left with promises to keep the pine well watered in its new home.

Janet and I looked around the garden after the three women left. We talked about inviting other Garden Tender groups to the garden as part of their training. We cleared away the cut branches and weeds we'd pulled from the beds. We moved several salvias. The garden looked renewed from our gardening that morning.

Thinking about that morning is just the tonic I need. Spring's not that far away after all.

Patricia Schrieber
Outreach Manager

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
December 1995

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 18 • No. 1 • January 1996

Norris Square Park Dedication

by Madeline Marr, Public Relations staff

Seniors from the **Norris Square Senior Center** and community residents can now enjoy a special place to gather in the Park. The sitting area designed by community and Philadelphia Green is now complete with benches and game tables for checkers or dominoes.

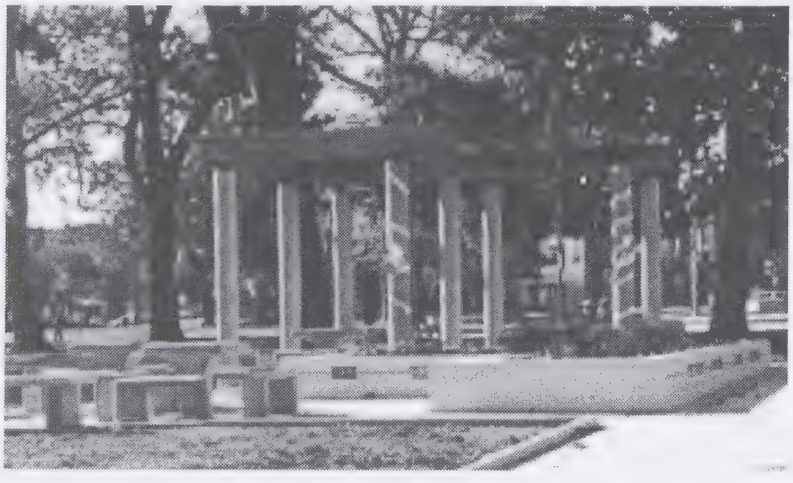
The sitting area, covered by a wooden trellis, is surrounded by tile artwork created by the community. Each tile tells a story from Puerto Rican history and culture. Two large murals painted on the sidewalk near the sitting area provide a place for the children to play games like hopscotch. **The Norris Square Neighborhood Project,** located across the street, will use the sitting area as a classroom for children's afterschool activities.

The dedication ceremony in November included a parkwide cleanup, followed by children's games, ethnic food, music, and dancing. Children from the Norris Square Neighborhood Project entertained in colorful costumes from their native Puerto Rico. The **Raices de Boriquen**, a musical theatre group of adults from the neighborhood, also performed native dances.

photos cover and next page by Ira Beckoff

Grow With Us!

*Children from the **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** entertained in colorful costumes from their native Puerto Rico.*



The sitting area is complete with benches and game tables designed for checkers or dominoes.

This Land is Your Land
Philadelphia in Flower

A Gardener's Gala

Join us for
Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show
in the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

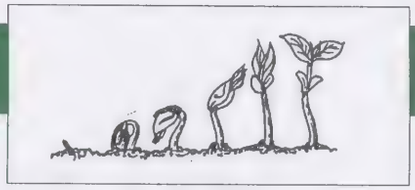
Start your day on **Sunday, March 3rd** with a sumptuous brunch, then visit the Flower Show at its new home.

Watch for invitations in the mail or call Flossie at 625-8280.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE.
Make your reservations early.

The cost will include a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.

What's To Do in January



This is no time to relax!

Winter may seem like the perfect time to sit back, put your feet up and watch the snowflakes fly. Gardeners in particular may see this as a time of rest and renewal for themselves as well as their plants. For the organized gardener, however ,there is always something to do.

Meet Your Neighbors

Winter, because of the break it provides in the time-consuming daily tasks of plant maintenance, is an excellent time to meet with your neighbors and fellow gardeners in order to share ideas and begin to plan activities for the following season.

Too often, community garden groups wait until March or later to get together for the first time since Autumn. By letting planning wait until Spring, they often miss the opportunity to plan carefully, as plant and garden care needs quickly take priority over long-term goals once warm weather arrives.

Holding a garden planning meeting in January allows people time to focus on their long-range wishes and needs for the coming season. Because few activities are taking place in the garden at this time, it can be easier to discuss the responsibilities of various members without disagreement. It is often easier for people to discuss what they would like to do before actually beginning the work. Overworked gardeners may feel resentful and overwhelmed when additional tasks are discussed in the height of the season.

In the winter, though, it is possible to think carefully about how much time may be available in each person's schedule, and each person's skills and preferences for completing garden jobs. By allocating specific tasks at a winter meeting, much of the fighting over who does what once the spring season begins can be avoided.

Attract New Members

Winter is also a good time to think about how to attract new members to your garden. Important questions to consider are: how many working members do we need in order to keep the garden looking beautiful? What activities would our neighbors like to see in the garden this year? What incentives can we provide in order to attract new members? Do we need to raise more funds, and if so, how? By identifying a concern common to many area residents, such as children's activities, gardeners can plan ways to address this concern or desire in the upcoming season.

Involve the Surrounding Community

It is much easier to recruit help for garden projects if the surrounding community feels that the garden is providing for neighborhood needs . In addition, a community-oriented garden activity schedule can help to reduce vandalism and theft by making neighbors feel as if the garden belongs to them. This generates a sense of responsibility and community which can help solve problems beyond the garden gates as well, benefiting the neighborhood as a whole by reducing crime and making people feel more comfortable with each other.

Because these are important issues and attracting people to attend meetings takes time and effort, its important to focus on these activities in the winter, when organizers are not busy with other garden tasks. Planning meetings in the winter may seem like a lot of work, but the effort and aggravation saved in the upcoming garden season makes it worthwhile.

By Edie Tshering. Reprinted with permission from Plant-A-Lot News, published by Council on the Environment of New York City.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society honored two venerable community gardeners, **Alta Felton** and **Frank Kieser** at our Annual Meeting last November, awarding each of them a Certificate of Merit. Here's how the Awards Committee described these two talented and well-loved people.

Alta Felton is applauded for her involvement in community gardening since the 1950s. She later enlisted help from Philadelphia Green to enhance the garden she and her neighbors started with recycled fence materials and a ton of determination. The **Garden of Eatin'** has evolved into a wonderful demonstration garden and workshop site and has become a showplace for visitors to the **Point Breeze Greene Countrie Towne.**

Alta has led the gardeners of the Garden of Eatin' in cooperative ventures with many community-related agencies. She was willing to experiment with Penn State's crop trials and with a greenhouse built by the **Grass Roots Alliance For a Solar Pennsylvania.** Alta has served as an advisor to **Penn State's Urban Gardening Program** for many years and as a result she was recognized as "The Grandmama of Gardening Angels" at the Urban Gardening Awards ceremony in 1994.

Both Alta's motivation for long hours in the garden and philosophy of neighborhood gardening is captured in a quote from the book *From the Good Earth - A Celebration of Growing Food Around the World*: "You know if you hadn't got out there and started something, and got the neighbors into it, then you couldn't stay here, because then there's nothing but rubbish. You take nothing and just make beauty all around you."

Frank Kieser has always had a hidden passion for plants that was cultivated by former Advisory Board member Ruth Flounders with her request for him to hold a neighborhood meeting in his living room. In the late 1970s, **Brickyard Farms**, the garden he helped establish, remains an inspiration to other gardeners with its strong sense of design and remarkable beauty.

As co-chair of the Community Gardens and Herb sections at the Harvest Show, Frank nurtured potential exhibitors through community workshops. These gardeners, schooled in proper growing techniques and nomenclature, have gone on to win many blue ribbons. Frank's own perfect herbal specimens have awed judges and visitors alike. In 1992, in recognition of his accomplishments in growing herbs, and his work with Herb Society members at the Harvest Show, Frank was made a member-at-large of the Philadelphia unit of the Herb Society of America.

Frank served on Philadelphia Green's first Advisory Board and helped plan and install the Philadelphia Green exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Frank personifies the spirit of PHS's Philadelphia Green program with his remarkable ability to touch individuals and neighborhoods.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

January 1996

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 18 27

Vol. 18 • No. 2 • February/March 1996

Plant a Row for the Hungry

As gardeners around the city start to plan and plant this spring, visions of luscious red tomatoes, succulent peppers, beans, and greens dance before their eyes. Wealth has a different meaning for gardeners, something to do with a freezer full of greens, shelves full of tomatoes and peaches lined up in jars like works of art.

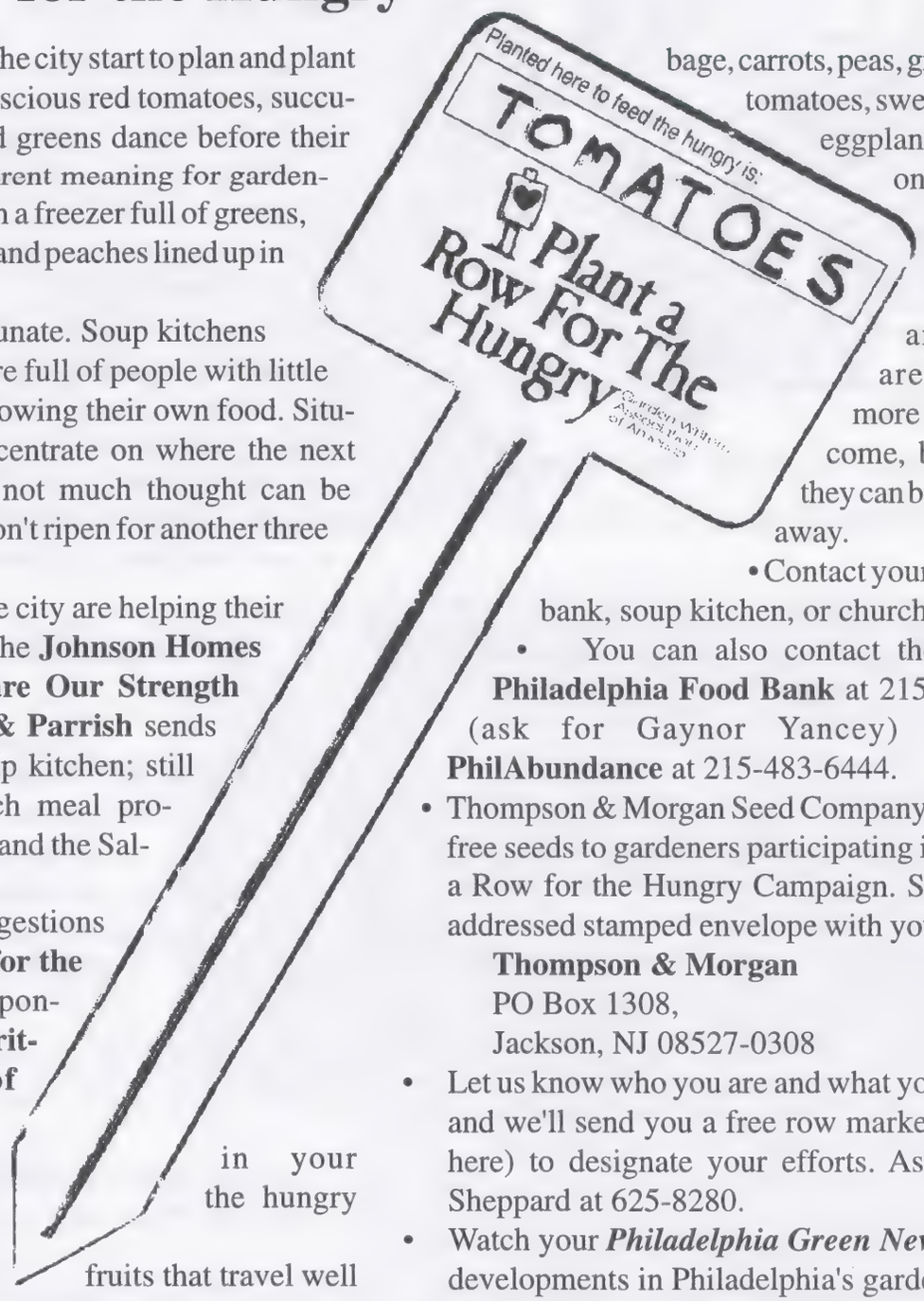
Many are not so fortunate. Soup kitchens and homeless shelters are full of people with little or no opportunity for growing their own food. Situations dictate they concentrate on where the next meal is coming from; not much thought can be spared for a crop that won't ripen for another three months.

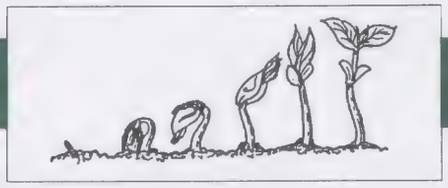
Gardeners all over the city are helping their neighbors. Folks from the **Johnson Homes** sent vegetables to **Share Our Strength (SOS)** last year; **19th & Parrish** sends theirs to their local soup kitchen; still others donate to church meal programs, day care centers and the Salvation Army.

Here are some suggestions from the **Plant a Row for the Hungry** Campaign, sponsored by the **Garden Writers Association of America:**

- Plant an extra row in your garden to help feed the hungry in your community.
- Plant vegetables and fruits that travel well and are good keepers, including broccoli, cabbage, carrots, peas, green beans, tomatoes, sweet peppers, eggplants, squash, onions, beets & turnips. Collards and herbs are usually more than welcome, but only if they can be used right away.
- Contact your local food bank, soup kitchen, or church.
- You can also contact the **Greater Philadelphia Food Bank** at 215-739-7394 (ask for Gaynor Yancey) OR call **PhilAbundance** at 215-483-6444.
- Thompson & Morgan Seed Company is offering free seeds to gardeners participating in the Plant a Row for the Hungry Campaign. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your letter to:

  Thompson & Morgan
  PO Box 1308,
  Jackson, NJ 08527-0308
- Let us know who you are and what you're doing, and we'll send you a free row marker (pictured here) to designate your efforts. Ask for Gigi Sheppard at 625-8280.
- Watch your ***Philadelphia Green News*** for new developments in Philadelphia's gardeners' efforts to plant a row for the hungry.





What's Coming Up

This Land is Your Land
Philadelphia in Flower

Questions about the 1996 Flower Show???

Who's going to help you find your way around?

WE ARE!!

Enclosed in your newsletter is a four-page supplemental issue of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society News, devoted entirely to the 1996 Flower Show in its new home at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets. Included are transportation information and a general layout of the Convention Center.

Once inside the Show, you'll find information aides eager to help you find your way around the Show floor. And as always, the annual *Flower Show Program*, loaded with information about major exhibits, lectures & demonstrations, competitive classes, and a detailed floor plan, will be on sale throughout the Show.

PhilaPride Ambassador of the Year 1995

The Philadelphia Green Program was recently named **Ambassador of the Year** for 1995 at the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Associations' Hospitality Awards Luncheon. In a letter to **Mark Viggiano,** Executive Director of **PhilaPride**, which gave the award, PHS's Vice-President, Programs Blaine Bonham said: "*You afforded us a level of recognition that we have not received before, and it was an honor to be able to show slides of our work to that particular audience. I know our Philadelphia Green Advisory Board members and staff appreciated the opportunity to attend the event and share my enthusiastic gratitude.*"

A Gardener's Gala

Join us for
Brunch at the Philadelphia Flower Show
in the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Start your day on **Sunday, March 3rd** with a sumptuous brunch, then visit the Flower Show at its new home.

Watch for invitations in the mail
or call Flossie at 625-8280.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE. Make your reservations early.

In addition to the meal, the cost of $20 will include a ticket for admission to the Flower Show.

Cultivating Kids

Students at the Meade School took some time to think and write and draw about why nature is important, and what nature looks like in their neighborhood.

Ahminah Cottman, grade 3

A Garden

Apples are growing on a tree. The turtle is walking in a garden and a butterfly is flying. The sun is coming out. The rabbit is eating cabbage. Jamar is walking down the street. He is happy about the flowers. He wishes there was a rabbit in the garden at Meade. The plants are good and the plants are growing.

Jamar Oliphant

I live in a city with lots of green. I like seeing green things. My class planted tulips and daffodils in late September. They just blossomed about two weeks ago. Sometimes I see broken bottles in the gardens. I feel sad because the broken bottles are there. I see people walking past the gardens. The people feel sad too. In Spring the people will clean the gardens and they will look pretty again.

Nicole Brown

When I grow up I'll feel happy to work in Philadelphia as a gardener. I would water the flowers and trees and pick the weeds. I'll also sweep all the broken bottles and trash. Then I would go to the inner City and feed the birds and bees. I'll also paint nice colors on all the vandalized buildings, to help make Philadelphia a quiet and peaceful City.

Sahleem Johnson

These essays and drawings are reprinted with enthusiastic permission from the Wagner Free Institute of Science's ***GeoNews****.*

For more information about Wagner, call 763-6529

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

You may have met Eugene Reeves while he worked for the Society as our Youth Program Specialist a few years ago. A recent letter from him reminded me again of Gene's many contributions during his time here. Gene has a great ability to inspire young people to learn gardening and to use the skills they acquire in positive ways. You can tell from his letter that Gene is continuing the work he started here with Philadelphia Green.

Dear Patricia:

We are doing fine here in Ireland. I am at home with the lifestyle here. There is no hurry, no traffic, and lots of wonderful people. The baby is walking and climbing. Shannon [his oldest son] *is into this place. He has learned three years of Gaelic and has caught up with the children in his class. Alyn* [his wife] *has sold about twenty paintings and her work is getting popular. I have taught a whole school year and have had the best time of my life. I ended up teaching in five schools with the most enthusiastic children I have ever met. The main environmental organization has even tried to take advantage of my success by trying to get a million trees planted. I told them I was not interested in doing anything in the millions for free.*

This year I plan to set up tree nurseries at each school and we will grow trees from seed. I grew Eucalyptus and Acacia trees from seed. I have planted a lot of trees on the property. The children grew Orange and Apple trees from seed to plant at home. The weather here is so mild that it is the imagination that tells you what to plant. I have Kiwi vines growing here now.

Well, take care. Tell all the folks that I send my best and that this is a wonderful place to be. Anyone that visits, please look me up. I send my best good luck and God Bless.

Gene Reeves,
The Standing Stone,
Schull, County Cork, Ireland.

Has this letter inspired you? Or have you already adopted the next generation? We'd like to hear how you're taking youth in your community under your gardener's wing.

Patricia Schrieber
Outreach Manager

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
February/March 1996

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 18 • No. 3 • April 1996

Gardeners' Gala Honors Urban Gardening

The Philadelphia Flower Show settled amazingly well into its new home at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. And the Gardeners' Gala Brunch moved very smoothly from the Civic Center to the luxurious Grand Ballroom in the former train shed, which also holds the Convention Center's Grand Hall.

800 Philadelphia Green gardeners, friends and families attended the brunch. The table centerpieces, topped by a liberty-bell-shaped ivy topiary, followed the Show theme--This Land is Your Land; Philadelphia in Flower. Guests chuckled through another wonderful slide show created by **Flossie Narducci,** Special Events Coordinator and narrated by **Blaine Bonham**, PHS Vice President, Programs, while The **John Gannon Trio** (John doubles by day as Blaine 's Executive Assistant!) provided the music.

The slide show offered a unique perspective on Philadelphia Green activities through the year." Philadelphia Green From A-to-Z" highlighted everything from **A**spen Farms and the **A**zalea Garden, to **z**ucchini & **z**innia. The only letter left out was "X," which Blaine hurried to add, stood for the **"X-Tra Special People at Penn State Urban Gardening !"**

The Urban Gardening Program was the group honored at this year's Gala as Philadelphia Green's long-time program partners. Special bouquets of fresh vegetables and flowers, along with commemorative plaques, were given to **Terry Mushovic**, Director of Urban Gardening, and to Garden Advisors **Mimi Colavita, H.R. Draper, Joe Janulewicz, Maureen O'Hara, Doris Stahl,** and **Charles Young.**

Terry Mushovic, Director of Penn State's Urban Gardening Program (shown here with PHS's Blaine Bonham) was one of the "X-tra Special People" honored at this year's Gardeners' Gala

Spring Garden Sale!

Mark **Saturday, April 27th** for the **Philadelphia Green Spring Garden Sale.** Pick-up times are assigned in the order we receive your payment, so if you want an early pick-up time, please send in your order ASAP. No orders will be accepted after the **deadline of April 9th**. If you have not already received your order forms, call Flossie at 625-8280.

This sale is a service to Philadelphia Green gardeners and is not open to the public.

Cultivating Kids

A basket brimming with small plants, green and growing, is an inviting nest for decorated eggs at Easter, and a lovely presentation for houseplants anytime.

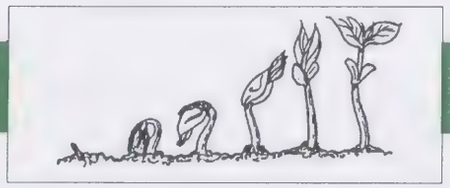
A favorite basket filled with small living plants is a natural Easter decoration. And, depending on the plants, you can enjoy this basket garden for months or even years to come.

To prepare the basket, line it with a plastic bag or deep dish (the plastic container from a fast food salad bar is ideal.) Make sure to provide some drainage holes. Fill with potting soil. Some suggestions for plant material are: baby's tears, English ivy, herbs, small ferns like rabbit's foot, button, & maidenhair. To add color, include a pansy or Johnny-jump-up or a bright African violet. Vary textures and heights of plant material for more interest and contrast. But before planting, make sure the combination of plants has compatible lighting and moisture needs.

Use Spanish moss to trim basket edges and to form a nest to hold your cache of eggs.

An easy alternative is to select two or three of your favorite small houseplants, arrange them artistically in the basket, and disguise the tops of the pots with Spanish moss. To add a touch of spring, cut a few daffodils or tulips (an odd number gives the best effect), put the stems in a small plastic bag with water, and tuck the bag between the pots. A branch of forced forsythia wrapped around the handle completes the effect. A perfect centerpiece for your Easter table.

Once the holiday is over and the fresh flowers are no longer beautiful, either remove them or replace with new flowers and fresh water. To maintain the basket arrangement past the holidays, make sure to provide drainage for the houseplants.



What's Coming Up

COOL SEASON CROPS TO PLANT IN APRIL

FROM SEED (outdoors)
beets
carrots
corn
dill
gladiolus
kale
mustard
onions
parsnips
peas
potatoes
radishes
spinach
turnips

FROM TRANSPLANTS (outdoors)
broccoli
cabbage
cauliflower
collards
clematis
daylilies
fruit trees
hardy herbs
leeks
lettuce
mint
pansies
raspberries
roses
strawberries
thyme

Many people traditionally start their gardens on Good Friday, maybe because it's the first official holiday of the spring season. But Good Friday comes early this year, so don't yield to temptation. IT REALLY IS TOO SOON TO PUT OUT YOUR TOMATOES!!! It's also too soon for beans, sweet potatoes, peppers, and eggplant.

Clippings

Greene Countrie Towne Support Program

We are now accepting proposals for improvements to existing Philadelphia Green projects within Greene Countrie Towne boundaries.

Improvements include any items that would add to the security or beauty of an existing garden or block project. Requests can cover plants, construction materials, fencing and/or labor needed to make the improvements.

The application deadline for this year is **May 3, 1996.** Call Eileen Gallagher at 625-8280 and request an application.

Flower Show Thanks

This year's Flower Show was a resounding success! Many thanks to the more than 3,000 volunteers, exhibitors and supporters who pitched in their time, effort and enthusiasm. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special thanks to the exhibit committee and everyone else who worked on the Philadelphia Green exhibit—planning, set-up & takedown, and informing and entertaining the public with presentations about their projects.

Have Tiller, Will Travel

Call Earl White at 232-6986.

Tiller Grant

Mantis has announced a grant of Mantis rototillers/ cultivators to ten community gardens around the country. In addition to the tiller, each group gets a border edger and introductory video. Time is short! To apply, call Gigi at Philadelphia Green, 625-8280, for an entry blank. Applications must be postmarked **no later than April 15, 1996.**

Spring Garden Sale How-to's

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 27** for the Philadelphia Green's Spring Garden Sale at the Horticulture Center in Fairmount Park. You'll be able to purchase annuals, vegetables, perennials, herbs, and garden supplies at discount prices.

You can take advantage of these low prices ONLY IF YOUR GROUP PRE-ORDERS. There will be plants and garden supplies available on sale day, but these will be limited in quantity and not offered at the discount price.

Here's what your group needs to do:

- Watch for the order forms in your mailbox.
- Photocopy enough copies of the form to distribute to your gardening neighbors. (For vegetable gardens, one form per plot or gardener; for garden blocks, one form per participating household.)
- Give people a deadline to return completed forms and money to you. GIVE YOURSELF ENOUGH TIME TO TALLY THE ORDERS BEFORE THE PHILADELPHIA GREEN DEADLINE.
- Compile all of the orders and fill out YOUR form with the total number of market packs and supplies. PLEASE SEND ONLY THE TOTALS, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL ORDER FORMS. Keep the individual forms for your own records. Also keep a copy of the completed tally sheet.
- Enclose the total prepayment with your order and mail to us **by Tuesday, April 9**.

Send your order form with check or money order (NO CASH!!!) to:

Spring Garden Sale/Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Phila, PA 19106

All orders must be picked up the day of the Sale. We cannot be responsible for those orders not picked up on time.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Spring is busting out and aren't we relieved? I finally lost count of all the snowstorms. One saving grace is that water levels in our reservoirs are much higher than they were this time last year.

I kept one of my New Year's resolutions and planted my edible pod peas on the first Saturday of spring. It's quite a small patch with just enough to make an appetizer for a meal or two. As I was looking through the pile of catalogs before mailing in my seed orders, I read that Shepherd's Garden Seeds, phone: (860) 482-3638, has a limited offer for free seeds in support of community gardens and school gardening projects. Call to see what kind of help they can give.

I just heard about a new awards program, called "Kids Growing with Dutch Bulbs," that will award 40,000 flower bulbs to 200 schools and community organizations nationally. Call me at 625-8280 if you want a copy of the application. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 25th.

After you've limbered up for some heavy work in the garden, get ready to prepare the best soil that you've ever had. First clear the planting bed of any rubble or boulders that may have worked their way to the surface over the winter. Dig down to a depth of 8-10 inches with a pointed shovel. This will be practically impossible if it's your first year, but will get easier with each passing season. Digging this deep breaks up clay chunks and puts dead leaves and grasses from the surface down where they can be of use to plants and worms.

When finished, the garden should look like the surface of the moon, crater after crater. Exposing the subsoil allows the sun and warm spring air to take the chill off the cold soil. The warmer temperatures also help to make the soil creatures more active.

Add peat moss, compost or mushroom soil to increase the water holding capacity of the soil and make it easier to work. They also break down over time to provide food for plants. Additional food can be given to plants by adding nutrients to the soil now. Bloodmeal and bonemeal are organic fertilizers that provide nitrogen and potassium, needed for root and leaf growth. Rock phosphate is a good source of phosphorus for flower and fruit production. Sprinkle a few coffee cans of each over the garden. Chemical garden fertilizers like 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 can also be used now, but only after reading the directions on the label.

After spreading everything over the planting bed, rake or hoe everything to break up the large clumps, and to mix the ingredients together. Smooth out the surface and let nature take its course. The payoff is a healthier and more productive garden.

Here's to our best gardening year yet!

Patricia Schrieber
Outreach Manager

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

April 1996

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 18 • No. 4 • May 1996

THE YMCA AND VERNON PARK

In October 1993, Philadelphia Green started the Parks Revitalization Program to improve four city owned neighborhood parks, including Vernon Park, with funds from The William Penn Foundation. PG staff have been working closely with community and the Department of Recreation to gather ideas, develop master plans, attract a volunteer base and conduct improvement projects. Since its start, PG staff have worked with many dedicated park groups and volunteers that provide continuing support to these community parks. ***John Lafley****, Executive Director, YMCA Germantown, & Philadelphia Green Advisory Board member, tells the story of some of these partners.*

I first saw Vernon Park on a June morning in 1993, on my way to a meeting at the Germantown YMCA. The majesty of the trees made me feel that I was in a quiet country setting. I believed the park could complement the indoor activities that all Y's have for youth. **Donald Simon**, a neighbor and member of the Board of Directors of the YMCA talked about the efforts of the Friends of Vernon Park to help clean up the park and to prevent the druggies and alcoholics from making the park their own personal place to get high. I was inspired to join in this worthwhile community effort.

The YMCA runs a housing program for low income men, many of whom are in recovery. We approached the men in the program to see if they would be interested in helping to clean up the park. On the first clean-up day in September, twelve men showed up to help. At the end of that first day, we felt very satisfied with what we had done, but we also knew we needed more help.

Philadelphia Green was invaluable in improving the image of the park. Staff arranged for removal of dead tree limbs, and supplied rakes and trash bags. Philadelphia Green staff guided us in determining the order of the projects: planting new trees, and assisting the Senior Center with the installation of an exercise trail.

"Philadelphia Cares" recruits volunteers from the city and surrounding counties to help city community organizations better their neighborhoods. We were able to schedule their groups to work with the YMCA residents. This greatly increased the amount of trash that was picked up on each clean-up day. The Recreation Department picked up the trash after each clean-up in a timely manner.

The Y has been able to use the park the last two summers for our day camp program. The baseball diamond is also available for our after school program. I am especially encouraged to see families in the park. Now fewer people use the park for illicit activities. The better the park looks, the more people want to help. I've been very pleased to join with others who are working together to improve the park and bring beauty to our neighborhood.

Germantown YMCA volunteers Carlos Siplin, Thomas Hudson, Clyde Wilcox, Leonard Jeffries, Melvin Smith, and John Williams after a hard day's work at Vernon Park.

Grow With Us!

Clippings

Thanks from Urban Gardening

Dear Blaine Bonham:

On behalf of our Director, Terry Mushovic, we the staff of the ***Penn State Urban Gardening Program*** *would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for honoring us at the recent Gardeners' Gala.*

All the Garden Advisors are pleased in working with the Society in such joint projects as the Junior Flower Show, City Gardens Contest, the Harvest Show, and the American Community Gardens Association, now and in the years to come. Thank you for that special recognition.

UGP Garden Advisors & Staff Assistants.

Canning Jars

We have a small supply of canning jars, mostly quarts, available this spring. They are used, but have plenty of miles left in them. Call Sally McCabe at 625-8280.

Tiller for Hire

Call Earl White at 232-6986 for prices.

Volunteers Needed

City Hall in Bloom... We need your help planting annuals in City Hall's courtyards and sidewalks on **Wednesday, May 23**, from 9 - noon.

Rain Date is May 24.

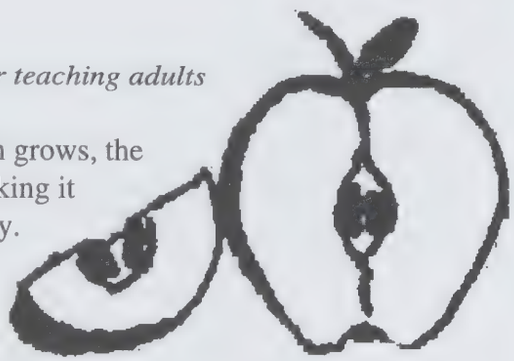
To volunteer, call Flossie at 625-8280.

NGA Can Help

Most community gardeners don't own the land where they garden. At any time, the landowner can put the property up for sale, or request that the gardeners vacate the land. **The Neighborhood Gardens Association** helps gardeners preserve their gardens by offering help with various real estate/land ownership options, and range from NGA actually acquiring the land itself to NGA assisting gardeners with the real estate research, negotiations, and legal work necessary to acquire the gardens themselves. In either case, the joy of gardening and the day-to-day garden management remains in the hands of the gardeners themselves.

To find out more about how NGA can help save your garden, call 625-8264.

An Exercise in Soil Appreciation



This activity was developed by the Knox Parks Foundation for teaching adults as well as schoolchildren.

We all depend on soil for our food. As the world's population grows, the amount of soil capable of supporting each person is reduced, making it essential that we use the diminishing per capita soil supply wisely. How much soil do we have to work with?

Cut an apple into quarters. Take away three of the quarters, which represent ocean areas, leaving one quarter of land areas.

Cut the "land" quarter in half, and take away one of the halves, representing areas which are unsuitable for human habitation.

Cut the remaining eighth of the apple into four equal parts. Three of these parts represent areas unsuitable for growing crops, either because of poor weather or soils, or because of development for other uses; take them away, leaving one-thirty-second of the apple.

Peel the remaining piece. The tiny piece of peel represents the soil upon which we all depend for food. Now return to your garden and practice soil conservation with the tinyness of that piece of peel in mind.

Cultivating Kids

Junior Flower Show Finds a New Home at the Philadelphia County Fair

The Junior Flower Show turns 21 this year in its new home, Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park.

Show dates are June 4th, 5th & 6th, in conjunction with the two-week-long Philadelphia County Fair. The partnership with the County Fair and the move to Memorial Hall mean that many more people will be able to view the exhibits of the region's budding horticulturists.

Call 625-8280 to request a copy of the Junior Flower Show handbook.

ARTISTIC CLASSES

1. ***City Hall - Key to the City***
   A small, festive arrangement, of fresh and /or dried plant material. Must include a key.
2. ***Reading Terminal Market***
   A fresh flower arrangement incorporating flowers and/or fruits and vegetables.
3. ***Academy of Natural Sciences -- Crafty Creatures***
   Creatures made from only dried plant material, seed pods, etc. Must be 3-dimensional and free-standing.
4. ***The Gallery -- Giftbox***
   A gift box decorated with seeds, beans and dried plant material.
5. ***Fairmount Park***
   An arrangement of dried flowers and plants.
6. ***Mummers Museum -- Headwear***
   Headwear decorated with natural materials such as dried flowers, weeds, seeds, etc.
7. ***Philadelphia Zoo -- Scarecrow***
   A scarecrow representing an animal from the Philadelphia Zoo.
8. ***Free Library --Pressed Plant Bookmark***
   A bookmark using pressed flowers/foliage to make the design.
9. ***Art Museum -- Vegetable Print***
   A block print design, using cut vegetables as the printing tools.
10. ***Veterans' Stadium***
    An arrangement in an athletic shoe.

ENTRY RULES

- Check age division eligibility before entering artistic classes.
- Each exhibitor will be permitted to exhibit only one entry in each artistic class.
- Each artistic class is limited to a total of 10 entries from each classroom or group.
- All plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except in artistic classes. All plants must have been cared for by the exhibitor for at least two months prior to the Show, and have been grown in exhibit containers.
- An exhibitor may have more than one entry in a horticultural class if plants are of different varieties.
- Artificial plant material is not permitted. Everything used must be natural. Accessories are permitted where specified.
- Some horticultural classes are limited. Please bring only the number of entries allowed under each class.

What's Coming Up

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9	**Herb Sale** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Yellow Springs Art Center, Yellow Springs Sponsored by Herb Society of America, Philadelphia Chapter
May 11	**Eastern State Penitentiary Workday** 9:00 AM to 12 noon	For more info, call Inja at 625-8280
May 18	**Azalea Garden Workday** 9:00 AM to 12 noon	Fairmount Park For more info, call Inja at 625-8280
May 23	**City Hall in Bloom** 9:00 AM - noon	Rain date May 24 For info, call Flossie at 625-8280

June 3-7 **Junior Flower Show** At the **Philadelphia County Fair**, Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park

Mon., June 3, 11 am to 6 pm	Registration
Tues., June 4, 5 pm to 8:30 pm	Open to the Public
Wed., June 5, 9:30 am to 8:30 pm	Open to the Public
Thurs., June 6, 9:30 am to 6 pm	Open to the Public
Fri., June 7, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm	Entry Removal

What to Plant in May & June

Plant seeds:
annual flowers
beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots

Plant transplants:
broccoli
cabbage
collards
cauliflower
tomatoes
sweet potatoes

Wait for June:
peppers
lima beans
eggplants
okra

Tips for transplanting

Pick the perfect transplant
- buy short, stocky plants
- look for vegetable plants that DON'T have flowers or fruit
- don't let transplants wilt

Plant when conditions are best
- after rain or before rain
- on a cloudy day
- in late afternoon
- after soil is amended and turned

How to plant
- remove gently from pot
- handle by root ball, rather than by stem or leaves
- for undivided market packs, slice roots apart gently and evenly
- set plant in soil at same level as it was in the pot
- firm the soil around the root ball, then water to remove air pockets
- after soil settles, add enough dry soil to fill the hole
- remove any flowers or buds to encourage strong root systems

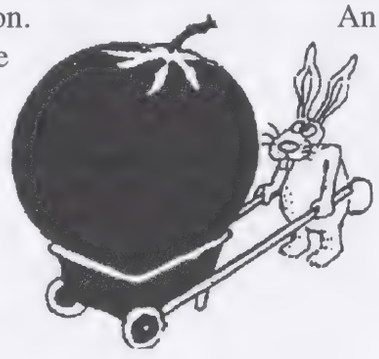
One week later
- water with liquid plant food, following directions on labe.

First Ripe Tomato on the Vine

Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA), the organization that works to save gardens from being sold, is sponsoring a

First Ripe Tomato on the Vine Contest.

A gift certificate will be awarded to the community gardener who produces the first vine-ripened tomato of the season. An NGA staffer must see the tomato on the vine.



Contestants should call NGA at **625-8264** when the tomato is ripe.

More Than a Flower Show

In addition to being the site for the **Junior Flower Show**, the **Philadelphia County Fair** is open to elementary school students to enjoy agricultural and educational hands-on exhibits, entertainment and rides on **Wednesday & Thursday, June 5 & 6**, from 10 am to 2 pm. Cost is $5 per student, with one free chaperone for every 15 students. Classes must preregister number and day attending prior to May 20 with

The Philadelphia County Fair
PO Box 5
New Tripoli, PA 18066

Free Seeds

The America the Beautiful Fund provides FREE SEEDS to community groups for the price of postage. Requests of more than 50 packets must be accompanied by a description of your project.

For more information, contact:
America the Beautiful Fund
219 Shoreham Building,
Washington, DC 20005
202-638-1649

Houseplant Reminder

Now that the days are getting longer, houseplants will begin to come out of their winter hibernation and start putting forth active growth. Help them along by fertilizing with a 1/4 solution of instant plant food (Peter's or Miracle Gro is ideal). To get the right strength, mix up enough for a quart, put in a gallon jug, and top off with water. For best results, use water that's been sitting out overnight, since the chlorine will have evaporated away.

Attention City Gardeners!!

Be a Judge:

Spend one day this summer tiptoeing thru the tulips or high-stepping among tobacco, cotton, zinnias & zucchini. Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as the corner of a backyard.

Be a Contender:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the City Gardens Contest entry blank in the mail, or call 625-8280.

DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th.

Call Flossie at 625-8280 to volunteer as a judge or to register as a contestant.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

*Guest columnist **Steve Maurer**, Philadelphia Green Advisory Board member and long-time community activist, has a strong sense about why Philadelphia Green has been such a success.*

Philadelphia Green community volunteers are shaped by our neighborhoods. We know that in our urban environment a tree, a garden, a block or even a community can thrive when there is consistent, attentive care and dedication. We often hear about crime and deterioration in the city, and of residents who are unwilling or uninterested in improving their environment. Yet Philadelphia Green gardeners rise above the negative.

We raise bees, cull honey, press flowers, make prize winning pies from our own fruits, and cook delicious dinners with our own vegetables. We're involved in Town Watch, the Clean Streets program, recycling, and local zoning issues. We want our city to be alive and growing, not crippled by short-sighted attempts at "progress." We need more of us to clean up the areas that are already trashed because of misguided development. The hope for our city lies in proactive communities, where people communicate and work together to make their neighborhoods better places to live.

We are black, Hispanic, Asian and white. We plant trees, work in gardens, and revitalize vacant lots because we believe in the rewarding returns of our efforts. Sometimes the simple act of writing a letter or making a phone call can bring about unexpected and often productive results. A hospital administration planted trees and landscaped its parking lots only because concerned neighbors asked. All that was needed was the realization that the community cared. At the most basic level, if we don't care, then no one else will. And we have the ability to rise above the apathy of others to make positive change in our neighborhoods.

We succeed in our efforts in many ways. We succeed because teachers in the Philadelphia School system volunteer their time — after a hard day of work — to explain urban gardening fundamentals to interested students. We succeed because of someone like **Mamie Nichols**, who organizes gardens, tree plantings, and housing for elders. We succeed because of folks like **Delmer and Beverly Gill**, who somehow find the time to chair the Community Garden Harvest Show Committee, work on their respective careers, attend night school classes, and contribute to their own neighborhood. We succeed because a neighbor waters three trees during a drought after he cleans up beer bottles left by college students who think that they are entitled to trash the neighborhood. We succeed because someone like **Sharon Turner** hauls water to care for some plantings while young men stand by and offer no help. Our concerns are our neighborhoods, the blocks on which we live, our own backyards and front stoops, and the very fabric of this livable city.

In short, we succeed because we reach for what at first seem to be unattainable goals and aspirations, and, in the process, we often exceed our expectations.

Philadelphia Green News
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper
May 1996

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

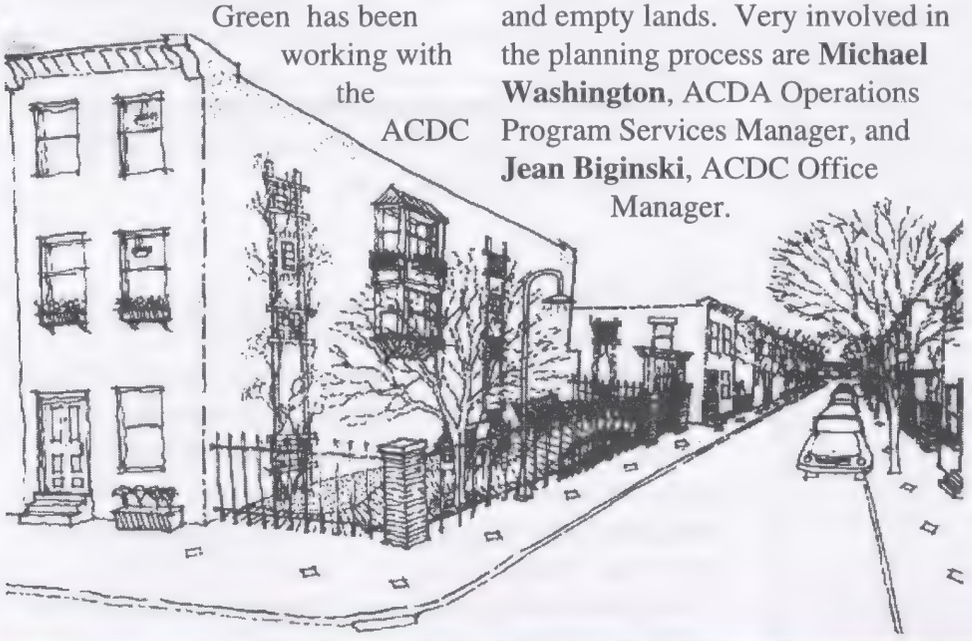
Vol. 18 • No. 5 • June 1996

News From the CDC's

by Tom Mishler, Phila Green staff

On March 12, more than 30 residents and leaders from the Susquehanna neighborhood in North Philadelphia met with open space planners from the PA Horticultural Society at the offices of **the Advocate Community Development Corporation** (ACDC) to look at the problem of vacant land and what to do about it. The group brainstormed some creative solutions and broke into small groups and to work on specific ideas for the vacant land on each block in the target area.

For the last 10 years ACDC has been building new housing in the area surrounding the beautiful **Advocate Church** at the corner of 18th and Diamond. Philadelphia Green has been working with the ACDC community for many years planting gardens and trees in the neighborhood. A few years ago, Philadelphia Green and ACDC started looking at the community's vacant land and how to best plan, develop and maintain it.



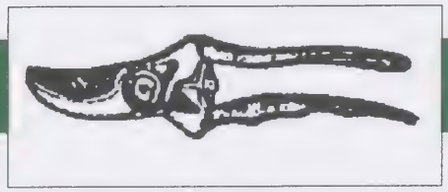
We found that there are many more empty lots than there are volunteers to garden them. We discovered that even simple solutions like grass and a few trees will stop the illegal dumping . Also, we believe that new housing should include more open space for off-street parking, side and rear yards and decks and patios.

The next step is to plan what the neighborhood would rather have in place of all those vacant buildings and empty lands. Very involved in the planning process are **Michael Washington**, ACDA Operations Program Services Manager, and **Jean Biginski**, ACDC Office Manager.

A scale model of the neighborhood is being built by PG intern **Luis Diaz**. Seeing the neighborhood in miniature should make it easier for residents to make some decisions about future development of the area.

BLCDC Family Learning Garden

The **Black Lutheran Community Development Corporation** recently completed building a 4000 square foot garden, which includes individual raised garden plots for children attending their afterschool program, flowering street trees, demonstration beds, a lawn area and a barbeque patio, in the **2100 Block of North Carlisle St.** BLCDC received grants this year from the **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership** and the **National Gardening Association** to support their garden, and are currently starting lots of seedlings with help from PHS volunteers **Lee Raden** and **Beth Driben.** The project was designed by volunteer landscape architect **Victoria Marshall** through the **Community Design Collaborative.** The garden is being ably coordinated by **Elaine Wallace**, a volunteer for BLCDC.



Clippings

Free Seeds

The America the Beautiful Fund provides FREE SEEDS to community groups for the price of postage. Requests of more than 50 packets must be accompanied by a description of your project.

For more info, contact:

America the Beautiful Fund, 219 Shoreham Building, Washington, DC 20005 202-638-1649

Arbor Day in the Parks

In late April 1,200 children celebrated Arbor Day 1996 at four Department of Recreation Parks. They made seed masks, met an owl, turtle and baby squirrel, potted up tomato seeds, learned environmental songs, made recycled paper and turned trash into treasures, and helped with park clean-ups. When it was all over, Norris Square, Vernon Park, Marion Anderson Recreation Center, and Wharton Square looked better and had acquired many new friends.

Tiller for Hire

Call Earl White at 232-6986 for prices.

Attention City Gardeners!!

Be a Judge in the City Gar dens Contest:

Spend one day this summer tiptoeing thru the tulips or high-stepping among tobacco, cotton, zinnias & zucchini. Visit gardens as large as a city block or as tiny as the corner of a backyard.

Be a Contender:

While you're primping and pruning in your garden, watch for the City Gardens Contest entry blank in the mail, or call 625-8280.

DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th.

Call Flossie at 625-8280 to volunteer as a judge or to register as a contestant.

First Ripe Tomato on the Vine

Neighborhood Gardens Association (NGA), the organization that works to save gardens from being sold, is sponsoring a **First Ripe Tomato on the Vine Contest.**

A gift certificate will be awarded to the community gardener who produces the first vine-ripened tomato of the season. An NGA staffer must see the tomato on the vine. Contestants should call NGA at **625-8264** when the tomato is ripe.

City Hall Planting

At this 5th annual planting of "City Hall in Bloom," volunteers from around the city and suburbs planted 6,408 impatiens and vinca on May 23rd. Planters included **Huey School** children and patients from **Magee Rehabilitation.**

Tree Maintenance Grants

The Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership has funded Philadelphia Green to help neighborhood groups and community organizations care for their trees. Matching grants are available for pruning mature street trees, hazardous tree removal, and general maintenance to trees along city streets or on public property.

Call Eileen Gallagher at 625-8280 for your application. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS AUGUST 1st.**

Digging

continued from back page

of a tropical island that sets off their Enchanted Marston Gardens, pictured in the book, and say, "We call this our oasis." **Florie Dotson**, Strawberry Mansion's visionary, summed up what motivates so many Philadelphia gardeners to spend the time they do working as hard as they do with "What the gardens do is give us hope."

We say thanks to all these wonderful gardeners for telling the Philadelphia story so well!

Patricia Schrieber, Outreach Manager

June in the Garden

June Hints

- Prune shrubs after they bloom
- Divide, plant, and fertilize perennials
- Fertilize bulbs after blooming
- Plant annuals
- Plant tender bulbs
- Apply mulch to plantings
- Check for insects and diseases
- Trim and plant ground covers
- Plant perennials and biennials for bloom next year
- Stake tall plants as they start to grow
- Remove dead flowers from plants to encourage new blooms
- Select or order seeds for succession planting in the vegetable garden

When starting seeds in the warmer months, here are a few things you need to remember:

- Plant seeds twice as deep as recommended for spring planting. The soil is much warmer than in the spring, and seeds need a little extra insulation from the blazing sun.
- Mulch the area around the seed row or bed, but not on top of the seeds. Mulching the area keeps moisture in the soil, helping the germinating seeds and emerging seedlings.
- Seedlings germinate much faster and are much more sensitive to drying out in hot weather. Take care that they get enough water during this stage of development.

Plant from seed:

beans
beets
broccoli
cabbage
carrots
cauliflower
collards
corn
cucumbers
dahlias
herbs
okra
melons
pumpkins
squash

Plant from plants

collards
eggplant
herbs
peppers
sweet potatoes
tomatoes
columbines
peonies
irises
phlox
daylilies
asters
hollyhocks

Summer Mulching

Mulch is any material used to cover the soil. It provides a barrier to weeds, an enrichment to the soil, and a way to retain moisture.

In the forest, nature provides a constant source of mulch by depositing leaves, twigs and other materials on the soil surface. In urban areas, nature's cycle is broken by removing this natural cover and replacing it with concrete and asphalt.

You can come to the aid of your garden by being a substitute for nature; put down an enriching material like compost or old manure, and add a good cover of woodchips, shredded bark or bark nuggets.

Since your plants will benefit greatly from the reduced weed competition and added moisture, a covering of mulch should be maintained throughout the growing season.

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

I recently read a new book about community gardening called A Patch of Eden. Though I don't ordinarily write about books here, I found lots of old friends in this one and want you to hear some of the memorable things they said. Pat Hynes, the author, writes about America's inner city gardeners, using Philadelphia, San Francisco, New York, and Chicago as examples. She came to Philadelphia to hear people's stories about what she calls "the emerald necklace in the city of neighborhoods" and found Philadelphia's community gardeners gifted in their "rek ting of the fabric of life."

Pat discovered signs of this in Norris Square Greene Countrie Towne, with **Iris Brown**, **Tomasita Romero** and **Sister Carol Keck**. Iris is pictured in the garden called "El Batey," talking about the community's children and the gardens. "I cannot promise them they're going to college or will have a job. I can tell them that they will have fresh produce to eat; I can promise them they will have beauty."

Sister Diana Cerchio found help for making the Project Rainbow Children's Garden from **Sister Maureen O'Hara** of Penn State's Urban Gardening Program (PSUG). "With kids there has to be at least one adult to keep them interested. When kids are interested, they will keep learning. That person at Project Rainbow is Diana Cerchio."

Rachel Bagby, appearing in a picture of the Susquehanna Greene Countrie Town gardens with **Rose Lee Newsome**, is intent on reaching the children of the community. Rachel talks about her idea for a mural painted by Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network, with images of neighborhood children, "some working with hoe and shovel, others looking curious and eager...so they could see themselves. It will transform them....It means such a great deal - to smell the cool breeze, the freshness of the flowers, the fragrance of Mother Earth, right here in our own neighborhood." Susquehanna's **Willie Mae Bullock** took pleasure in "turning negatives into positives. You really have to look much harder beyond the gardens and the tree-lined streets to see the devastation."

Dorsha Mason, of West Hagert Greene Countrie Towne, is credited with inspiring the beauty of her community, where her block is a model for others to copy: "a tree-lined street of freshly painted brick and stucco houses whose corner is capped with a vest pocket garden and a mural of a mountain waterfall." Rachel and Dorsha are described as "miracle workers" because of the tremendous impact of all of their neighborhood planning and community building.

Jimmie Taylor and his late wife **Ruth** labored long at Glenwood Green Acres Garden. Jimmie says, "The majority of people aren't crazy about nature. You got to be a lover of this stuff. It ain't enough to want a garden because Joe has a garden. You got to *love* nature." **Alice Cooper**, part of Green Acres heritage gardening group, talked to community children of old times when, "gardening and farming was a way of life and a way of survival... Back then this was the only machine," holding up her hands.

Peggy Williams and **Lorraine Harris** of Strawberry Mansion Greene Countrie Towne looked up at the mural

(continued inside front page)

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

June 1996

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 18 • No. 6 • September 1996

Project H.O.M.E. "Garden Days"

by Pam Rowan,
Garden Tenders Graduate

Project H.O.M.E. works in partnership with chronically homeless persons in Philadelphia through street outreach, residential facilities from emergency shelter to transitional and permanent housing, and comprehensive support services including health care, education, and employment. Staff from Project H.O.M.E. completed Garden Tender training through Philadelphia Green this summer.

The first official "garden days" were back in April when I was attending the Garden Tenders classes. Groups of volunteer college students came on Saturdays to clean out the construction lot next to our new residence at 1515 Fairmount Avenue, which we planned to use for the garden.

Two groups signed on to help with **Project HOME's** Flower and Herb Garden: the **Philadelphia Community Care Corps** (a branch of Americorps) and the **White Dog Cafe**. PCCC, led by **Russanne Bucci**, has 35 members who are interested in health care and community development. PCCC decided to take on our garden and do outreach in the community as their group project. **Judy Wicks** (owner of the White Dog Cafe in West Philadelphia) advertised our project in her monthly newsletter and the response to our request for volunteers has been quite fruitful!

On June 20 we began building. This included a two-foot raised herb garden which will provide herbs for our newly renovated Back HOME Cafe, a catering service offering employment to our residents. We also built a children's garden, with 50 children coming every Thursday morning to plant flowers, paint rocks, and learn about various health issues.

We recycled large (and heavy) beams from a neighboring vacant building to terrace one side of the garden and to line the walkway. Many people wandered around North Philadelphia collecting bricks for the walkway and patio. After lunch, we planted herbs, built a compost bin, and laid the brick walkway. All 20 of us including children were exhausted yet excited about the new skills welearned and the progress we made.

We still have a lot to do. We will put up lattice along the wall, as well as climbing rose and morning glories along the fences. Our clay studio is making little clay signs with the names of the herbs on them. Our art studio is designing something (like a gingerbread house!) to paint on the ugly transformer in the middle of our garden. The children are making a mosaic with clay pieces for the patio benches. **Jane Golden** and the **Philadelphia Anti-Graffiti Network** are going to paint a mural on the side of the building starting in the fall.

Education will continue to be a big part of the whole project, as we learn even more about health, cooking, herbs, bricklaying, carpentry, and what's the most fun—planting, watering, and watching!

Enjoying garden construction at Project H.O.M.E., 1515 Fairmount Avenue.

Clippings

United Way Donor Option

Last year, PHS received $16,500 from PHS members and friends who used the United Way's Donor Option program. When you are considering a contribution to United Way, please remember that you too can direct your United Way pledge or outright contribution to PHS through the Donor Option program. Just fill in our Donor Option I.D. #06197 on your pledge form.

These contributions represent unrestricted operating support, which especially enhance Philadelphia Green programs--planting street trees, making soil and plant deliveries to community gardeners, or helping to rehabilitate neighborhood parks. Since 1974, Philadelphia Green has worked with over 700 neighborhood groups on more than 2,000 gardening projects throughout Philadelphia, turning vacant lots into community gardens and despair into civic pride. To ensure that your contribution is directed to PHS, please note our Donor Option I.D. #06197 on your United Way pledge card.

Celebrating 75 Years of Caring

1921 -1996

United Way
of Southeastern
Pennsylvania

PG Advisory Board Member Wins Tapestry Award

Kate Loal, a Philadelphia Green Advisory Board member and active participant in the Junior Flower Show and City Hall Planting, has been a science teacher at the **S.B. Huey School** in West Philadelphia for 28 years. Kate was one of only 40 teachers across the country to receive a 1996 Toyota **TAPESTRY** grant of approximately $10,000. Funded by Toyota and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), these grants total $400,000 and will fund innovative teaching projects in 26 states. This is the first time that a teacher from Philadelphia has received this award.

As part of her proposed project, "Thank You, Lewis Latimer, " Kate Loal will develop lesson plans based on the lives and work of past and contemporary African American scientists, such as Lewis Latimer, who invented the carbon filament for the light bulb; Dr. Charles Drew, who worked with blood typing and plasma; and Benjamin Banneker, the planner of Washington, D.C. and an astronomer.

Each unit will involve studying and honoring the life of the scientist and conducting hands-on experiments in the area of the scientist's contribution. Kate's goal with this program is to dispel the myths many students believe about scientists (that they are all, as she writes in her proposal, "white men with curly hair, who wear strange glasses and white lab coats and who work somewhere off in a lab where smoke is coming out of bottles") and about science (that it does not apply to every day life and is therefore hard to understand or boring). In dispelling these myths, she aims to instill in her students the belief that they too can take part in and contribute to the scientific world.

September in the Garden

It's said that cleanliness is next to Godliness. But in the garden at season's end, it's usually next to impossible. Let's face it. We've been busy with harvesting, canning and freezing the fruits of our labor. We don't have time for weeding the crabgrass carpet or pulling the bolted spinach. Sure, neatness counts. But we do have our priorities.

Yet while we rush to put up one more bushel of tomatoes, we must keep next season's harvest in mind, because what we do this fall to put the garden to rest can change its health and vitality next year.

Planning

The first step requires pencil and paper. Before you pull up plants, sketch your garden layout and indicate what grew where. This record will aid in crop rotation next season, which helps you avoid recurring problems. Rotation means planting crops of the same family in different spots each year. This helps prevent the buildup of specific diseases or insects from building up year after year in the soil. It's best if you can avoid a spot for three seasons at least.

Next, note what varieties you grew, how well they did, and anything you'd change about the way you grew them.

Also record any disease or insect problems you had, and include what chemical and non-chemical controls you used. Were they effective? What would you do differently?

Now roll up your sleeves — it's time to get to work.

Cleanup

To compost or not to compost, that is the question. Should weeds and plants go into the compost heap? Weeds and their seeds have incredible staying power. They can survive heat, cold, drought, chemicals and time, and they may harbor insects. So as tempting as it is, don't compost weeds that have gone to seed. Bag them up with the trash to be safe.

Now pull up any garden plants that show signs of disease and insect problems. Put them out with the trash too.

The remaining plants should be shredded or chopped into small pieces and added to the compost pile. In the pile, layers of shredded plants should be covered with several inches of soil. Composting is an art or science of its own and many sources explain different methods. Pick a style that suits your needs.

Soil Care

Turn the garden, leaving it rough, not fine and smooth like in the spring before planting. Nature's freezing and thawing will break up the clumps, but best of all, the rough surface reduces erosion from wind and water. Turning buries organic matter where soil microbes can dine on it, breaking it down to better feed next year's plants.

You can let the soil stand bare all winter if you choose, and that may reduce some overwintering insects and disease. But some of us can't stand seeing soil naked and vulnerable. Then you may try covering the garden with fallen tree leaves you have gathered, especially good if shredded with a lawn mower. Or till them in to improve the soil.

Cover Crops

Another alternative to bare soil is planting a cover crop. These plants hold soil in place, improve the soil, hold moisture in the soil, ease the conscience, and are easily tilled in next spring. Crops like annual rye, winter rye, or winter wheat sprout quickly in the fall and serve as good covers until spring cultivation.

So remember — any time spent cleaning up the garden this fall after a long summer is as good as money in the bank, making a healthier garden next year and a clearer conscience this winter.

Reprinted from the Chicago Botanic Garden's Green Connection**, October 1989.**

Cultivating Kids

Harvest Show Children's Activities

10a.m. - 5 p.m.	Scarecrow Making & Toddler Haystacks
11a.m. & 1 p.m.	Hollywood Harvest—Children have fun and test their knowledge of plants and the environment with this fall version of "Hollywood Squares"
11a.m. - 4 p.m.	Pumpkin painting, vegetable prints, apple games, and decorating sunglasses for the "Parade of Stars"
12p.m. - 1 p.m. *Sunday Only*	Philadelphia Zoo—A docent from the Philadelphia Zoo brings animals to the Children's Tent.
1p.m. - 3 p.m.	Autumn Games—Enjoy the Sack Slalom, the Bean Put, the Pumpkin Push and more!
1p.m. - 4 p.m.	Strolling Musicians
3p.m.	The "Parade of Stars — Decorate a pair of sunglasses and join the parade to celebrate *Silver Screen Harvest*
4 p.m.	Robert Harvey dons his famous bee beard!

Youth Garden Grants Available

The National Gardening Association will again be offering youth gardening grants to gardens working with kids. The grant is in the form of tools, seeds and books, and is worth up to $500. **Deadline for submission is November 15, 1996.**

To request an application, send a legal size self-addressed envelope with 52 cents postage to

National Gardening Association
Dept NGGP
180 Flynn Ave
Burlington, VT 05401.

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PHILADELPHIA GREEN

Harvest Show Workshop

Join
Philadelphia Green
&
Penn State's Urban Gardening Program
to get your entries ready for the Harvest Show.

Learn everything about how to prepare
flowers, vegetables, herbs and preserved products
to win to prizes at the Show!

Monday, September 16, 1996

5:30 - 7 pm
Aspen Farms Community Garden
49th & Aspen Streets

For more information
call Flossie at 988-8897

SUMMER/WINTER
COMMUNITY GARDEN OF
POWELTON VILLAGE
33RD & RACE STS.

TREE TENDERS'

2ND ANNUAL POTLUCK

PICNIC WITH A PURPOSE

Co-sponsored by Powelton Village Tree Tenders and

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15

10AM -2PM

BRING YOUR FAMILY (there will be children's activities), FRIENDS AND FUTURE TREE TENDERS

Join us for hands-on workshops to sharpen old skills and learn new ones in...

- **Tree Pruning**
- **Starting a tree nursery**
- **Soil Testing and Amending**
- **Fruit Tree Care**
- **Container Growing Trees**
- **Building Arches and Gates from recycled materials**

Be prepared to get dirty!
Bring pruners & gloves.

FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOPS: Join Fellow Tree Huggers for a sure to be scrumptious POTLUCK LUNCH. Bring a dish to share plus your own plate, cup and silverware (so we don't have to cut down trees for this event). We will provide drinks.

THE DAY BEFORE

Powelton neighbors invites you to join them for a **pond workshop** with **Pat Valentine** on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 10AM-2PM

BRING PLANTS TO SWAP AND A POTLUCK LUNCH

Location: The Summer / Winter Garden at 33rd and Race Streets in Powelton Village accessible by the Market Frankford EL - taken to 34th street, then walk North 2 Blocks to Race

For either activity and for childcare, RSVP to Cheryl at 988-8845

BUILDING A SCARECROW
-- a Fun Fall Activity for Kids

1. Sharpen the ends of two four-to five-foot-long 2x4s to make the legs.

2. Slip a pair of pants over the legs, then drive them into the ground at an angle so they meet at the top. Nail a three-foot-long 2x4 backbone/ neck to the top of the legs.

3. Nail a four-foot-long 2x4 arm piece above the legs, perpendicular to the backbone.

4. Fill the pant legs with straw.

These suggestions are for installing a permanent scarecrow. Want one just for the day? Consider building one on a broomstick attached to a christmas tree stand.

5. To make the head, stuff a pillowcase with straw and place it over the neck. Pull a shirt over the shoulders and onto the arms, then stuff it with straw. Pull the pants up and fasten them in place. Make sure all body parts are securely fastened!

6. Stuff gloves and place them on the ends of the arms to make hands.

7. Draw a face, add a hat and rearrange the stuffing if necessary to give the scarecrow a personality of its own.

BRING ON THE CROWS !!!

What's Coming Up in September

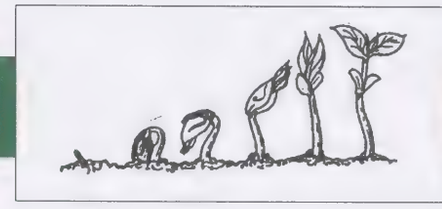
September 14	*Saturday*	*10 AM-2:PM*	**Pond Workshop/Plant Swap** *(flyer enclosed)* Summer/Winter Community garden, 33rd & Race Call Cheryl at 988-8845 to register or ask about childcare Pot Luck Lunch
September 15	*Sunday*	*10 AM-2:PM*	**Tree Tenders Picnic with a Purpose** *(flyer enclosed)* Tree pruning, fruit tree care, recycled arches & gates, & more! Summer/Winter Community Garden, 33rd & Race Call Cheryl at 988-8845 to register or ask about childcare & activities Pot Luck Lunch
September 16	Monday	5:30-7 PM	**Getting Ready for the Harvet Show** Aspen Farms, 49th & Aspen Co-sponsored by Penn State's Urban Gardening Program For more info call Flossie at 988-8897
September 19	Thursday	5:30-7 PM	**Registration** for the Harvest Show
September 20	Friday	7:30-10 AM 4-7 PM	**Registration** for Harvest Show **Opening Celebration** (see flyer to order tickets)
September 21	Saturday	10-5 12-4 6-8:30	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Join the fun with your children. **HARVEST PARTY !!!!**
September 22	Sunday	10-5 12- 4	**Harvest Show** Childrens' Tent open. Pumpkin painting, leaf masks, apple games, scarecrow making and more!

What's Coming Up in the Garden

FROM SEED OR BULBS	DIVIDE	BRING IN
garlic	daylilies	houseplants
lettuce	iris	herbs for overwintering
tulips, daffodils & narcissus	peonies	cuttings of geraniums,
radishes	phlox	begonias, & impatiens

As cold weather approaches, it's time to consider bringing your houseplants in for the winter. Of course this may mean getting rid of a few pieces of furniture first to make room for the jungle. In any case, it's important to check for insects and other problems before moving them, since you'll have more room to work outdoors, and pests won't seem so overwhelming.

Start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October. Watch for more details in your October PG News.



COME TO THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S HARVEST SHOW

♦ To bring entries to the show fill out the pre-registration form
on page 61 in the Harvest Show Booklet
For booklets, call Flossie at 988-8897

♦ To come to the **Opening Celebration** on:
Friday, September 20, 1996
4:00 to 7:00 PM

Send a stamped self-addressed envelope
for two **free** tickets to:

Linda Davis, Membership Secretary
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th flr.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

♦ To join Community Gardeners for a **Harvest Party** on:
Saturday September 21, 1996
6:00 to 8:30 PM

Fill out the tear off for two **free** tickets and return to:

Flossie Narducci
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th flr.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

When you bring your entries to the Show, you can get additional tickets at the Registration Tent

tear off

Address of Garden_____

Contact Person_____Phone #_____

Home Address_____ Zip_____

DIGGING IN THE DIRT

As a child, I cared for the planters and pots in front of our house. In the early 1970s, a neighbor convinced me to plant a street tree. Such are the roots of my community gardening adventure. Since 1989, I've been one of the many volunteers working with Philadelphia Green's **Public Landscapes** staff, maintaining the **Azalea Garden** behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Other volunteers work on the Ribbon of Gold projects at the former **Eastern State Penitentiary** and along several blocks of Spring Garden Street. Hailing from city and suburban communities, we drive, walk, bike and take SEPTA to our Saturday morning projects. Many volunteer groups support both the Azalea Garden and the Ribbons of Gold, which meet on separate Saturdays.

Karen and **Harry Bowers** bring a wealth of horticultural knowledge to the volunteer corps, much of it gained from being **Morris Arboretum** volunteers. **Molly Albert** and **Georgette Gillmore** are apartment dwellers who share an urge to "green up the place." They not only volunteer in the Azalea Garden but share their gardening skills to help improve their apartment building grounds. Fellow volunteers note that **Don Cleaver** has shown a special love for weeding and pruning in the Azalea Garden. **Natalie Auerbach** exercises her gardening muscle with Public Landscapes projects and her Francisville neighbors. She and her neighbors recently turned a lot on their block into an edible landscape, with tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and three apple trees. **Connie Rice** bases her enthusiastic voluntary support on her "feeling ownership of the garden." Her own flower garden, complete with pergola, was on the Fairmount House Tour. **Melba Axelrod** takes "pleasure in being part of gardens that bloom from Spring to Fall."

Dorene Martin loves the two block long Ribbon of Gold on the ramparts of the Eastern State Pentitentiary. Dorene makes it a family affair with husband **Bruce** and son **Tim,** perfect volunteers for summer watering. Dorene and **Patsy McLaughlin** add their personal touches to this city meadow, filling in barren sections with seed or plants.

The **Spring Garden Street Ribbon of Gold** reflects the devotion and dedication of **Rosina Feldman.** Diligent in her weeding, trimming and watering, Rosina keeps a watchful eye on the needs of the perennials and wildflowers, while ducking the #43 Bus and the cars which speed by this colorful median strip garden.

The motivation driving these community gardeners to volunteer is varied. What's yours? You never know how or when the urge to "plant the town green" will hit, but when it does, you can be sure that you'll acquire new skills and great friends as a result. Contact **Inja Coates**, Public Landscapes, 988-8865, if you'd like to join us on our Saturday work days.

Marc Zaharchuk, Chair, Azalea Garden Committee

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Please pass this copy along to a gardening friend.

Edited by Sally McCabe
Printed on Recycled Paper

September 1996

Philadelphia Green News
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 18 • No. 7 • October 1996

Sarah Allen Homes in Bloom

by Charlotte Kidd
Special to PG News

The Belmont section of West Philadelphia is blooming again thanks to the help of three formerly homeless women who are getting their lives back on track.

The women and children at the **Sarah Allen Homes** have made more than picture perfect gardens. Through their work, **Yvette Shelton, Anna Roleson,** and **Georgianne Freeman** have touched the heart of a reluctant neighborhood.

The Sarah Allen Homes include single room occupancy (SRO) units for formerly homeless women. The greening project is co-sponsored by the **Friends' Rehabilitation Program Inc.** and Philadelphia Green.

"These women have helped to change what was a barren area," says **Rasheedah Hyman,** Social Services Coordinator and Assistant Property Manager at the **Sarah Allen Homes.**. "Now it's a beautiful landscape with a thriving children's garden, a flourishing vegetable garden, and an extraordinary front flower bed."

Their dedication has also elicited newfound respect and admiration from neighbors. "I believe in the past the neighborhood saw it as 'those women who have problems, those homeless over there,' " Rasheedah adds. "Now they view this as a nice place with nice women.

"We are a part of the community now," Rasheedah continues. "We are not just another building at 4040 Ogden Street. Neighbors wave, say hi, come to the door and give us a verbal pat on the back. And the doggone neighborhood looks nicer."

This spring, Yvette, Anna, and Georgianne developed an after-school program for six girls who live in the family housing, Rasheedah says. "With Philadelphia Green's help, the women introduced the children to the world of urban gardening. They taught the children about germinating seeds, transplanting seedlings, and caring for plants." Coordinating the after-school program was "strictly volunteer and done from an interest in working with kids and gardening." Under the guidance of PG's Mindy Maslin and Cindy Perkiss, the women and children also created a tree lab for their garden.

This past summer, Yvette, Anna, and Georgianne were hired to organize a summer weekday environmental camp. They and the children weeded, hoed, watered, and harvested. They also did arts and crafts, including a t-shirt design workshop using leaves and vegetables with Philadelphia Green's Linda Dickerson, Keith Green, Chris Howse, and Cindy Perkiss.

"The overall experience has made a real positive difference in the lives of these three women and it's all around urban gardening," Rasheedah says.

Georgianne Freeman, Yvette Shelton and Rasheeda Hyman enjoy the fruits of their labors at Sarah Allen Homes, 4040 Ogden Street.

Even though summer camp has ended, the nurturing continues in the garden and among residents, Rasheeda adds. "The children really reached out to the three women, and they keep coming back for their hugs..."

Clippings

William Penn Grant

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was recently awarded a $3 million grant from the **William Penn Foundation**, providing support for Philadelphia Green over the next three years.

Under the new grant, Philadelphia Green will focus on a new Youth in Communities initiative, additional tree plantings and care, community parks revitalization, and additional community garden projects.

The **Youth in Communities** program is an inter-generational initiative to link youth through school activities and recreation center programs with community leaders involved in tree care. Utilizing classroom activities, tree labs, Arbor Day events, and community tree activities, Philadelphia Green will work with community-based projects to create structured programs that provide horticultural training and technical assistance to youth.

The William Penn Foundation grant will support and enhance Philadelphia Green's **tree planting** efforts with the addition of 150 street tree blocks and 100 lot projects in four target areas. In addition, the grant provides resources to continue Philadelphia Green's **Tree Tenders** program, which provides hundreds of residents across the city with education and training on urban tree care.

Under the **Parks Revitalization** program, the grant will support the rehabilitation of six new parks, in partnership with the City's Department of Recreation. Local community groups will receive organizational and maintenance training.

Philadelphia Green's **City-Wide Greening** program will receive funding to support a total of 100 new gardens, garden blocks, and tree planting projects in new areas. Organized community groups in new areas will also be supported by a **Garden Tenders** training program, which teaches organizational and development skills to groups who want to start their own greening projects.

The grant will also fund a new community **internship program** to help increase local participation in the greening projects. Interns will be selected from areas in which Philadelphia Green will be active and will work on projects related to the funded programs.

Johnny Tillmon Recognized

The **Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP)** dedicated its first garden this June in honor of the late Johnny Tillmon, a noted welfare rights organizer.

The **Johnny Tillmon Community Garden** at 1333-35 N. 4th St. was created through a Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership Grant.

Created to enhance townhouses yet to be built, the garden includes raised beds and a sitting area with benches and tables, says **Rochelle Krauss,** community organizer at WCRP. About 15 people grow vegetables in six plots and maintain the flower garden.

Since the garden was completed, gardeners have attended several workshops including one about Basic Gardening and another on Putting Your Garden to Bed.

Youth Garden Grants Available

The National Gardening Association will again be offering youth gardening grants to gardens working with kids. The grant is in the form of tools, seeds and books, and is worth up to $500. **Deadline for submission is November 15**, so contact them right away!

To request an application, send a legal size self-addressed envelope with 52 cents postage to

National Gardening Association
Dept NGGP
180 Flynn Ave
Burlington, VT 05401.

October in the Garden

Even though most people consider fall to be the end of the growing season, it's still a very busy time in the garden. Remember, the more preparation you do this fall, the easier life will be next spring.

Clean Up

After first frost, clean up dead plants & weeds; cut back perennials. Eliminate any diseased perennials. Rake up lawns and compost the sweepings.

Prune

Prune after trees and shrubs drop their leaves; this means they are dormant and won't be shocked. Inspect trees and shrubs for dead, diseased or damaged wood. Remove overcrowded and crossing branches.

Fertilize

Work fertilizer and organic matter into the soil before the ground freezes. Melting snow and spring rains will disperse these nutrients to plant roots as they wake next season.

Plant

Fall planted bulbs and perennials will brighten any garden come spring. Lawns, trees and shrubs should also be planted in early fall so that before the ground freezes they can develop root systems to prepare them for summer's hardships. A lawn started in fall will be thick and lush next April and May.

Mulch

Winter mulch is used to protect tender plant roots from "heaving." Heaving is what happens when soil freezes and expands, then thaws and shrinks back, then freezes, then thaws and on and on. This constant changing "heaves" the plant roots right up out of the soil, leaving them unprotected from unfriendly weather. Mulching with shredded tree branches, pine boughs, wood chips or store-bought mulches will insulate plants and their roots during the winter, and can be dug into the soil or raked away and composted in the spring.

Plan

It's never too early to start planning for next year's garden. What worked this year, and what should you do differently next time? After the cleaning, feeding and digging are done, and winter's wind and cold have driven you indoors, the seed catalogs will start to arrive in the mail. And since you've already done all of the preparation work, all that's left to do is to order new seed and plants and sit back and dream.

Roses

In October or November, strip off remaining foliage. Lightly top-prune your roses to prevent wind damage. (New growth from this pruning will be minimal.) *Don't* prune your climbing roses or you'll end up with no flowers next spring.

Houseplants

Hopefully you followed last month's directions to start the process of clean-up and inspection before the end of September. This leaves enough time for plants to be inside by mid-October and get accustomed to the lower light levels before they also have to battle with the dry air from your heating system.

Give plants the best light available, while keeping them away from drafts, heating ducts and marauding cats. Don't be surprised if they start to look a little droopy and yellow a few weeks later. Plants as well as gardeners have to adjust to the shock of being indoors for the winter.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

October 1996

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Digging in the Dirt

Gardeners gathered on an early September evening to talk about the benefits they shared from creating the **Kimball Street Community Garden** in the past year. They were all pretty amazed at how quickly the garden took off. **Carla Puppin** stood at the gate, asking "Can we all brag?" Her husband, **Larry Lindsay,** had the inspiration for the garden as he looked out the back of their new house last July and saw the broken-down fence and 5 foot high weeds in the lot across the street. The lot was adjacent to the Christ Presbyterian Church, whose members hadn't the resources to keep things clean. Neighbors had complained to the church on numerous occasions about the terrible conditions there. Larry and Carla, who were long-time residents of **Bella Vista**, talked about the vision of the garden with other neighbors active in the community. Word passed quickly and people were ready to take action as soon as the church elders gave their approval for a garden.

Today it's a beautiful L-shaped garden, described by **Joan Sage** as "a secret garden," tucked around the side and back of the church. The gardeners had installed a decorative iron gate, bought with money contributed by many of them. They used their combined knowledge of building trades to put up the gate and build 17 raised beds and a brick entryway, following the garden design created by **Elizabeth Knortz**. They salvaged bricks and building artifacts from neighboring demolition sites. **Stanley Bielen** talked about the many trips to the Recycling Center in Fairmount Park, bringing back organic matter for planting beds, mulch for walkways and stumps for benches.

Lush squash and bean vines climbed fences and trellises. Tomatoes, collards, zinnias, okra, miniature roses, and herbs have provided an abundant first harvest. Sunflowers and marigolds filled the kids' garden next to the common area, where nine children played the night I was there. **Julie Snell** said the kids always asked, "Are you going to the garden?" as she would walk down the street. They liked to help harvest and were amazed to see peas and carrots grow. The gardeners felt that including kids in the garden really brought the neighborhood together.

The gardeners were excited about being in the second judging for new gardens in this year's City Gardens Contest. No matter what the results, they're all big winners in my book. Congratulations to all for the spirit of cooperation among 16 households and a neighborhood church, reflected in the beauty of the place.

Patricia Schrieber , Manager
Philadelphia Green Outreach Department

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 18 • No. 8 • November 1996

Penn Town--Gardening with Friends

by Charlotte Kidd
*special to the **PG News***

Love of gardening and green space reaches across generations at **Penn Town**, a housing project managed by **Friends' Rehabilitation, Inc.** at 7th Street and Fairmount Avenue.

Several years ago, Philadelphia Green developed and implemented a landscape plan for Penn Town that included installing trees, flowers, and a vegetable garden. But it's Penn Town residents, young and old, plus staff who are keeping the grounds looking good.

The vegetable garden's taken shape under the fine care of a team of senior women who brought little experience to the task. "**Aretha Miller, Ellen Streibel, Lillian Jones,** and **Ms. Young** have raised herbs, cabbage, corn, peas, and cucumbers," says **Keith Green**, Philadelphia Green Field Services Intern. Keith was happy to show these first-time gardeners how to plan their plot, plant, and keep the crops healthy and producing. "In the three years we've been trying to get that veggie garden together, this year is the first year the garden's been a success," Keith adds.

When the trees and flowers were vandalized by a group of young people living there, "the tenants were really angry because they realized they couldn't have nice things here," recalls **Carmen Acosta,** Penn Town property manager. They raised the issue at a community meeting and decided to educate the young people about the importance of respecting trees as living things that help the environment.

Philadelphia Green's **Cindy Perkiss** developed and led a workshop; Carmen did her best to encourage the likely suspects to attend. Carmen says, "I reached out to the kids I suspected. I served refreshments and raffled off prizes." About 18 youngsters ages eight to 14 attended the workshop and learned why trees are important and ways to care for them. Cindy emphasized the benefits of trees and talked to the kids about issues around public health, and looked at the connections between having clean air to breathe, and how trees purify the environment."

"The incidence of asthma is much higher in the African-American community and among inner city residents," Cindy says. "This was a way to engage the kids, especially those who had respiratory difficulties."

They were encouraged to pick out a favorite tree and adopt it "to make sure nobody stomps on it," Carmen says. She followed up by writing an article in the Penn Town newsletter asking parents to help.

Did education work? Carmen sees some improvement. "Around my area, everything looks fine but one tenant recently complained about vandals. I think some kids listened, some didn't. I think if we didn't have the workshop, it would have gotten worse."

Gardening by Computer? See inside for more about gardening on the Internet.

Clippings

New Number

Penn State's Urban Gardening Program has a new phone number. They can be reached at the **Food Gardenphone** at **215-471-2224.** Their address, 4601 Market Street, remains the same.

Workshops for Seniors

The University of Pennsylvania's Institute on Aging (IOA) will be offering a series of gardening-relatedworkshops and activities for seniors this fall and winter at the Ralston Wellness Center in West Philadelphia. The series in open to the public, and is being coordinated by Tree Tender and former Philadelphia Green Intern **Beverly Agard.**

For more information, contact Liz Mackenzie at 215-898-9116.

Youth Grant Available

The National Gardening Association will award 300 grants nationwide for use during the 1997 growing season. Each grant, worth more than $500, consists of quality tools, seeds, plants and garden products.

Programs involving at least 15 children between the ages of 3-18 years are eligible, with consideration given for educational, social, or environmental programming, sustainability, community support, strong leadership, need and innovation.

To receive an application write:

Garden Grants Dept
National Gardening Association
180 Flynn Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401
OR - call (800) 538-7476.

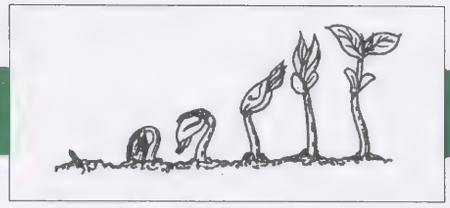
PLEASE, include the following information: πname, school, or organization, address and phone number.

Deadline to apply is NOVEMBER 15, 1996 !!!!!

Gardening Information on the Internet

- First in our hearts is, of course, the Horticultural Society's homepage, located at **http://www.libertynet.org:80/~phs** where you can learn everything about our programs, activities, Philadelphia Green, etc., and be linked to other groups dealing with community gardening.
- The Aggies of Texas A&M offer Kinder Garden, **http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/kinder/index.html** a garden Web page designed for kids, with lots of clickables leading to activities from butterfly gardening to interactive books, as well as info on
- The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) **http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/kinder/acga.html** loaded with info on how to start a comunity garden
- By far the most comprehensive site for community gardeners is City Farmer out of Vancouver, **http://www.cityfarmer.org.usc.edu/dept/garden** which links to just about anything related to community gardening, including ACGA and also on starting gardens in Philadelphia
- Joe and Mindy's Garden **http://www.nhn.ou.edu/howard/garden.html** offers well-researched , thoughtful and organized lists to other garden-related sites on the Web.
- Ohio State University **http://hortwww-2.ag.ohio-state.edu/hvp/HVP1.html** offers online database, links to over 5,000 garden factsheets from all over the Internet and even online college courses.
- And finally, there is the ultimate cyber gardening experience: The Telegarden **http://www.usc.edu/dept/garden**. This virtual adventure actually allows visitors to plant real seeds in a real garden by manipulating a robotic arm from their keyboards. Based at the University of Southern California, it is part behavioral science and part performance art. The Telegarden, depending upon how you look at it, is either great fun, or a bizarre first look at just how far gardening on the Internet might go.

November in the Garden



By the time you read this column, we've probably already had our FIRST FROST here in Philadelphia, at least on the city's outskirts. And although most people take this as a signal to call it quits in the garden, it's not time to rest just yet. Until the ground is frozen solid, your garden can always use some more tender loving care, and each minute of it this fall is worth hours of reward in the spring.

Most greens, like collards, mustard, lettuce, turnips and spinach can often be kept going until the end of the year, especially if your garden is in a protected area surrounded by heated buildings or walls that hold the sun's heat well after sunset. If it isn't, you can always provide some home-made protection.

Cold frames are just the security many plants need to survive early winter cold snaps. A well built, insulated frame can keep some hardy plants alive and growing all the way into spring.

A simple frame can be constructed from scrap lumber and old window sashes. Build a bottomless and topless box at least 8-12" deep, and sink it partway into the soil around your low-growing greens. Use the windowsash as a lid. If possible, slant the whole arrangement toward the south, to get more sunlight.

Remove or crack the lid during sunny days, since the insides can bake in the 100° temperatures that occur without ventilation. Keep plants watered but not wet.

Cold frames are also an excellent place to store **bulbs for forcing** during their cold treatment period. Make sure you buy large bulbs marked "for forcing" or "exhibition size." Pot them up in potting soil with a little bone meal and sink them into the soil in the frame. Water them well, then cover the pots with at least 8-12" of leaves or woodchips. Put the lid back on the frame and go away until February. The bulbs need 12-15 weeks of cold to establish their root systems properly and begin to grow. At that point you can remove a few pots every week and start them growing indoors for that early spring pick-me-up we all so badly need by then. We'll remind you in the spring when it's time to get the bulb rolling. **SPECIAL NOTE:** paperwhite narcissus do not need a cold treatment before being forced.

Green Tomatoes

NOW ABOUT THOSE GREEN TOMATOES. Take them off the plants, and save only the perfect ones. Wash them with water with a few drops of chlorine bleach, and put them somewhere in the dark, where the temperature holds steady at about 40° (an unheated cellar or attic is fine.) Some people prefer to wrap each one in tissue paper or newsprint, and others add a ripe apple to the batch to promote ripening. Check them every week or so and remove any that have begun to rot, since these are a bad influence on the others. Burpee Longkeeper variety tomatoes have been known to last into January and still taste better than store-bought.

Saving Summer Bulbs

Once the flowering season is over, let's pay a little attention to winter care of summer-flowering bulbs. It's certainly cheaper to invest some time storing them over the winter than it is to buy new ones each spring!

In Philadelphia, most of these bulbs are not winter hardy, although cannas, gladiolus and dahlias have been known to come back after a mild winter. This means that most summer bulbs must be dug up and stored each fall as frost approaches. The time to dig them up is when the foliage has thoroughly withered or has been browned by frost.

Summer-flowering bulbs are easily kept in plastic bags, with enough dry peat moss, vermiculite or perlite to separate them. Fold the top of the bag, but don't seal it. Keep it in a cool, dry place that stays about 55° to 60°.

Bulbs like dahlias and cannas need to be kept cooler than that—40° to 45° to prevent them from sprouting. Put them in peat moss or vermiculite in a plastic bag in a box to keep them dark, and store them against a cool basement wall.

Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

November 1996

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Digging in the Dirt

Though we thought we might have to cancel the Garden Tenders work day in early September because of threatened hurricane conditions, we all woke to a blue-sky day. 27 people came ready to learn skills to help get six new projects "off the ground:" **Greenwich Square**, the **2000 and 2100 blocks of Fitzwater**, the **2400 block of Bancroft**, **HERO** (Helping Energize and Rebuild Ourselves, Inc.), and **Friends of Dickinson Square**. **Janet Carter** and **Sally McCabe**, Phila Green Outreach Coordinators who lead the **Garden Tenders Training**, worked with the summer session trainees to resurrect a small neglected garden on the 2400 block of N. Bancroft St. Participants installed fence posts, hung new wire, and mixed concrete for the gate posts under the direction of **Randy Grubb**. **Michael Lofurno** and **Stephen Maciejewski** replanted several beds with the help of neighborhood kids. **Daisy Coffey**, host of the work day, was busy preparing refreshments and making sure she was in on the pruning and bulb planting demonstrations. **Don Azuma**, **Genece Brinkley** and **Kathy Garvin** took turns cutting back an old climbing rose. **Elaine Wallace** and her husband **Val** were in the thick of things throughout the morning.

I was especially excited with the interest shown by a group of young people ages 7 to 12. **Rikka** helped her mother **Diane Azuma** plant and water flowers around the garden. **Eric Walker**, **Ryan Coffey** and his friends **Lee** and **Anthony** took to the work like pros, though this was the first time any of them had gardened. Daisy plans to talk with a teacher at the neighborhood school about having her class adopt the garden.

Mr. Story, an older gentleman from Bancroft Street, thought he'd only watch that morning. When he saw a group of people trying to remove the stump of a tree he'd helped plant more than a dozen years ago, he traded his cane for a shovel. "If I lean on this shovel, I can raise the roots up so you can saw them off." **Jackie Rocco** was impressed by the turnout and the excitement that everyone showed. She just couldn't believe the "before-and-after" views of the garden. **Cheryl Walker**, the Outreach Department's new Administrative Assistant, was amazed at how many people stopped by, on foot or in cars, to find out more about what we were doing and about Philadelphia Green.

The morning's activities included a rededication ceremony led by Daisy, who offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the renewed beauty of the garden. The neighbors made a great lunch as a way to say thanks for all the help from the wonderful crew of new Garden Tenders.

Patricia Schrieber, Outreach Manager

Philadelphia Green News

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 18 • No. 11 • December 1996

Thank You, Pew -- three more years!

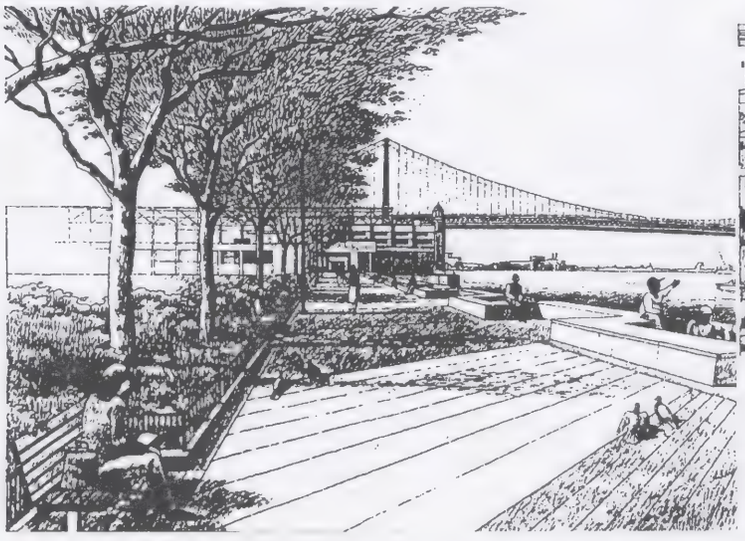
The Pew Charitable Trusts awarded $2.75 million to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program in late September to be used over the next three years.

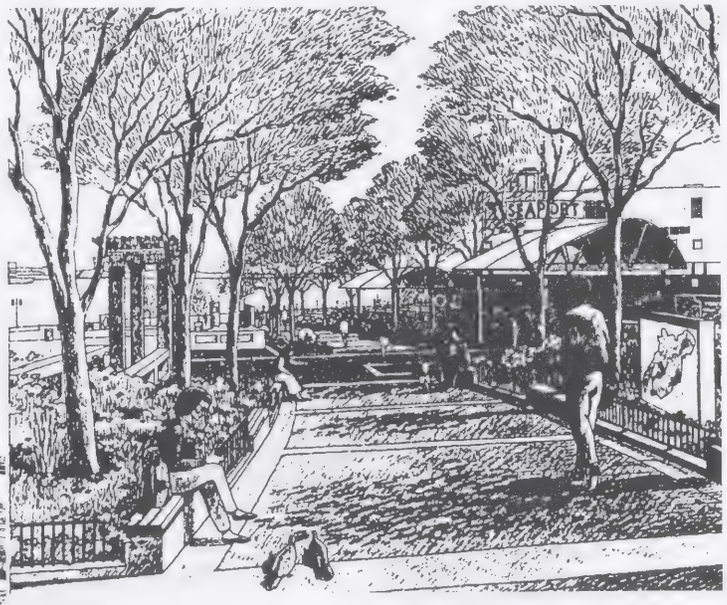
For nearly two decades, The Pew Charitable Trusts has supported PHS's Philadelphia Green program in numerous greening projects. The funding provided by the new grant enables Philadelphia Green to continue revitalization work throughout the city.

The scope of the new grant covers several crucial activities:

- Enables Philadelphia Green to continue its work with community development corporations (CDCs) and residents to design, develop and maintain open spaces in low-income communities in Philadelphia. Specifically, Philadelphia Green staff will assist the CDCs to think more strategically about vacant land use andto incorporate greening activities into their comprehensive, neighborhood-wide revitalization plans and efforts. They will help residents plant community vegetable gardens, flower gardens, flower barrels and other green spaces for neighborhood use. They will also train people to ensure proper maintenance for the transformed neighborhoods.
- Expands our local and national educational outreach efforts on community greening.
- Supports PHS's Public Landscapes Department in its efforts to build partnerships with corporations, government agencies, and other private funders to dramatically improve public spaces throughout the city.
- With the Trust's financial support, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has started discussions for a new Strategic Plan.

We are ready for another fruitful and exciting three years.





This year, we began work with the Penn's Landing Corporation, and these pictures show what this popular spot will look like after the completion of the landscape rehabilitation. Thank you, Pew!

Grow With Us!

Clippings

City Gardens Contest

Congratulations to the152 winners in the **City Gardens Contest**!!! Over 600 awardees and judges attended an Awards Ceremony at the Annenberg Center on Sunday, November 3rd. Winners will be announced in the next issue of the *PG News*.

The Stuff Winners Are Made Of

James Taylor "picked up his bed and walked" in the biblical sense when he left the hospital two days after a minor stroke to come to the PHS Annual Meeting to receive the **1996 Certificate of Merit**. Affectionately acknowledged by Blaine Bonham, "Jimmie" Taylor, coordinator of **Glenwood Green Acres**, a four-acre community garden at **18th & Glenwood**, was honored for his efforts in helping to launch, with his late wife Ruth, one of Philadelphia's most prized community gardens.

Blaine told guests that to visit Jimmie at the garden, which is part of Susquehanna Greene Countrie Towne, you needed lots of time and lots of bags: time for wonderful garden lore and bags to carry away the always offered gifts from the garden.

Mr. Taylor's philosophy for successful living--"Celebration and Commitment" -- was certainly in evidence on November 20th, when he leaped the wall to be with the PHS guests and friends at the Awards Ceremony. We always knew you were a winner!

Even MORE Awards

Mindy Maslin, Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders innovator, received a **Gardening Angel Award** from Penn State's Urban Gardening Program for her commitment to greening and tree planting throughout Philadelphia.

Mary Anne Hunter, a Landscape Architect intern in the Community Greening Department, won first prize in the National Student Design competition, sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Her entry, ***Regenerating Community***, was based on the area between **Cecil B. Moore Blvd & Oxford St.**, and between **7th & 8th Streets** in Ludlow, was done in partnership with **Doris Kessler**, a fellow Temple University student.

Upcoming

December	5	Hanukkah starts at sunset (eight days)
	21	First day of WINTER
	24-31	OFFICE CLOSED
	26	Kwanzaa starts (eight days)
January	1	OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year!!!

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

100 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE 1997 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will create a kaleidoscope of blooming gardens from March 2 to March 9 at the 1997 Philadelphia Flower Show - "The Great Exchange - People, Places and Plants". The world's largest and most prestigious indoor flower show will fill 10 acres of the Pennsylvania Convention Center with the flowers and fragrance of spring. Join us as a volunteer and help roll out the red carpet for our Flower Show visitors. You can help PHS, be part of the behind-the scenes activity and have fun as well. If you would like to volunteer, please check a job that interests you.

- ☐ **Show Information** - Answer questions from visitors in the Show Information Booth
- ☐ **Horticourt Information** -Share your horticultural expertise by answering questions of the Show visitors.
- ☐ **Membership & Sales Booth** - Members only. Sell PHS memberships, Flower Show souvenirs. Involves standing and walking in a fast-paced sales area.
- ☐ **Garden Shop** - Sell floral/gardening gifts and Flower Show souvenirs. Involves standing and walking in a fast-paced area.
- ☐ **Concourse Volunteers** - Greet and direct visitors from street level to exhibits, restrooms, ticket booths, etc. Involves standing and walking.
- ☐ **Roving Ambassador -** Answer visitors' questions on the Show floor. Involves standing & walking.
- ☐ **Lectures & Demonstrations** - Meet & greet guest speakers, help them set up, monitor rooms.

Please complete this form and return to Flossie Narducci at PHS by **December 15**.
We will contact you with further information.

Name_____Phone(day)_____(eve)_____

Address_____

_____State_____ZIP_____

Are you a PHS member?_____

Volunteer Opportunities at the 1997 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW
March 2 - March 9

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
100 North 20th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
100 North 20th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Attention: F. Narducci

Cultivating Kids

You really don't need to be an artist to make your own "seed" greeting cards—all it takes is a little time, creativity and some seeds left over from your garden. You can make the cards funny or religious, plain or fancy. Make up a poem about planting seeds, find a nice nature quote from another writer, or simply say "Happy Holidays" and include instructions for planting the seeds.

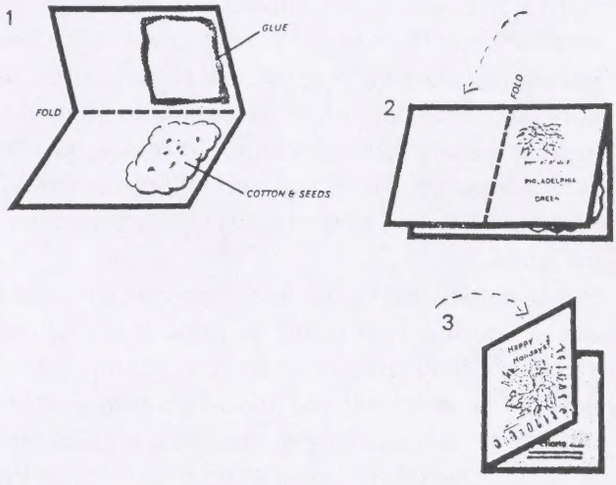
There are several ways to make seed cards.

- Use seeds as the design for the picture on the front of the card.
- Draw or cut out a picture for the cover, and enclose plantable seeds inside as though the card were a seed packet.
- Do both.

Here's what you need:

- heavy paper
- glue stick or white glue and Q-tips
- pencil and eraser
- magic markers in assorted colors
- pictures from magazines, photos of your garden, or original art work
- scissors
- cotton balls
- seeds saved from your garden
- envelopes

FOLDING AND GLUING STEPS



What to do:

Make a rough sketch of where everything goes

- take a piece of the paper and fold it in half. A regular 8 1/2" x 11" sheet becomes 8 1/2" x 5 1/2".
- Now fold this piece again to 4 1/2" x 5 1/2".

If you include seeds for planting, the planting instructions can go either inside or on the back.

Sketch in pencil where everything should go, since it's easier to erase when you change your mind. Draw the design on the front panel and the message on the inside.

Once you get it right, go for broke with markers, paint, pictures and seeds. Make <u>one</u> original, photocopying as many as you will need before decorating them. OR make each one totally different.

Seeds saved from your own garden make a very personal holiday gift. Glue seeds on as part of the design, or enclose them in the card in cotton as shown in the illustration.

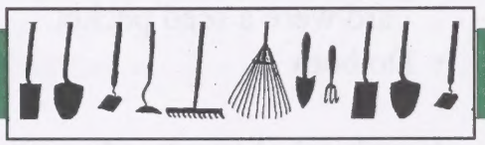
Philadelphia Green News

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

December 1996

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 2666

Digging in the Dirt



Tucked away on the southeast corner of 43rd and Baltimore Avenue across from Clark Park is one of Philadelphia's oldest and least known community gardens. Here my garden grows among the 48 plots cultivated by the Green Thumb Gardeners in a garden established more than 20 years ago with assistance from Philadelphia Green. A green slat fence surrounding the north and west sides of the garden hides all evidence of the lush garden that lies within. Recently, however, gardeners worked together with volunteers from the community to spread the beauty of the garden outside the gates.

My garden had begun to outgrow its plot, and I'd already foisted extra plants on some of my fellow gardeners, but their plots were also getting full. That's how we came up with the idea of planting a border outside the garden along the fence facing Baltimore Avenue. One of the Green Thumb Gardeners, **Pat Gillespie**, also happened to be involved in the **Baltimore Avenue in Bloom** project, a community effort through the Spruce Hill Garden Club funded by the Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership (PURP). With Pat as the point person, we joined efforts in a planting that would bring volunteers together to enhance both our garden borders and Baltimore Avenue.

After a hurricane false alarm, volunteers including **Lauren & Sarah Leatherbarrow, Johannah Fine, Amanda Benner** and **Beatrice Reid** from the Baltimore Avenue project broke ground and tilled Earthmate into the soil along the northern fence edge facing Baltimore Avenue on a late September saturday. Of course it rained that evening.

The next afternoon, the die-hards, along with the coerced and cajoled, put in plants thinned from the garden, and some plants from other local gardens, in the somewhat muddy ground. **Dylan Wrynn**, along with **Jeffrey, Latifa**, and others from the **Pentridge Children's Garden** were among the first to arrive. We were later joined by a few more grown-up volunteers-- **Amy Hammersmith, Carolyn Coates, Rob Kafes, Joan Halbert** and **Pete Cullum,** as well as other kids from the neighborhood. Together we planted about 100 feet of day lilies, hostas, black-eyed susans, comfrey and ajuga, filling in with marigolds and coleus for immediate color.

The Green Thumb Gardeners will do routine maintenance at our seasonal monthly workdays. We expect to plant a row of daffodil bulbs on the Baltimore Avenue edge of Clark Park, extending our planted "ribbon" and bombarding people with joyful blooms next April.

The Baltimore Avenue in Bloom folks have plans to begin a nursery of locally grown perennials to recycle plants into the community. Lots more exciting things are happening on Baltimore Avenue. If you'd like information on how to become involved, contact me at 988-8865 or Pat Gillespie at 387-3783.

Inja Coates, PHS Administration Assistant for Philadelphia Green's Public Landscapes Department.